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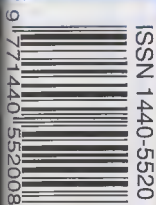
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02

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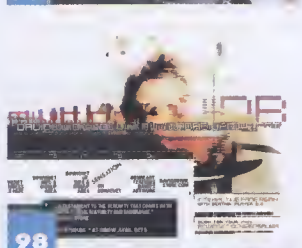
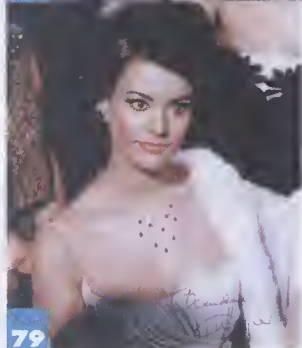
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Ask us anything —

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Beach gear

NEXT MONTH A new look and loads of Web sites to boot. We talk to some people who've been job hunting online, find out what all the WAP (wireless application protocol) is about and line up some hot deals in Web design software.

FEATURES

Spl@sh — Olympic Sports | 26

Just try to avoid the excitement in the lead up to the games with our guide to Australian and International Web sites on the Olympic Sports. We'll send you to Web sites for every single sport in the Sydney 2000 Games and the Paralympics.

Do Something Useful | 44

It's not just pretty pictures and information, you can do useful things online too, like sending faxes, checking postcodes, sending messages to mobile phones ...

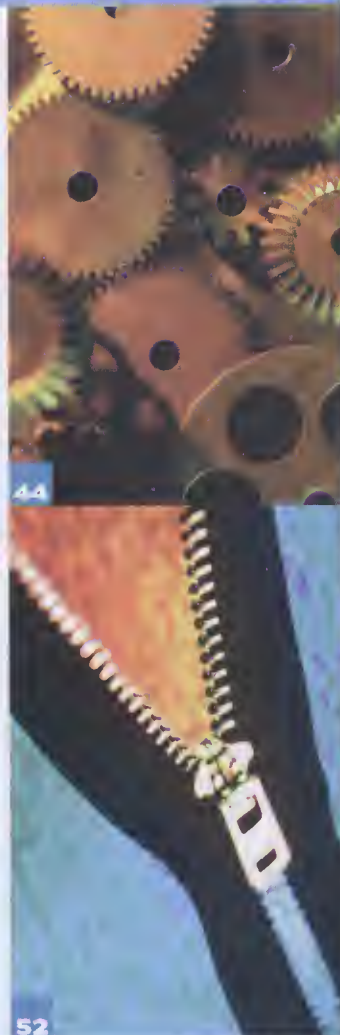
The Case of the Missing Socks | 60

Kim Gilmour goes after some wardrobe advice from the eight search engines down under. Still no socks...

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Zippety do dah | 52

Learn how to download and unzip zipped files — it makes transferring files over the Internet oh so easy.



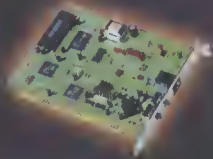
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NetGuide

GETS YOU TO THE BEST STUFF ON THE NET

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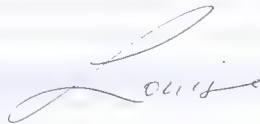
FROM THE EDITOR

THE WORLD IS ALMOST back to normal after the crazy holiday period. Suntans are settling back into office chairs and preparing to pale a little during the working week. With all the fuss surrounding the end of 1999 — Christmas, present shopping, eating, New Years, hangovers, resolutions — no-ones had any time to get excited about the Olympic Games.

As we watch the countdown to the "next big thing" check out some of the sites in our special Olympic Sports feature on page 26. The team of *NetGuide* surfers have been out on the Web looking for local and international sporting Web sites for every single event at the games. Plus SOCOG's Web guru Mark Jackson gives us the low down on what to expect from the official site during the games.

If you're still in holiday mode we've plenty of Web sites for you to visit. In Bill Bennett's 50 useful sites feature (page 44) we send you off to a whole pile of local and international sites that do something, well, useful. Whether you're searching for postcodes or sending text messages to a mobile phone, you'll find something of interest here.

We also line up some Australian search engines and bring back the usual collection of Top50 Web sites.



Louise Richardson

MANAGING EDITOR

louise@netguide.com.au

CONGRATULATIONS

Winners of Dragon Naturally Speaking Speech Recognition & McAfee 2000 competition from the December 1999 issue are: **Matt Johns**, Bolwarra NSW; **Helene Blackwell**, Rowville VIC; **Michelle Tuite**, Greenbank QLD; **Albert Allen**, Lockwood VIC; and **Garry Janson**, Warilla NSW. The winner of \$1000 cash in the *NetGuide* reader survey was **Grant Mascord**, Prestons NSW. Feeling lucky? Try your luck at www.netguide.com.au/win/

Mailbox

Send email to mailbox@netguide.aust.com. All are assumed for publication unless clearly stated otherwise. Include your full name and a contact phone number where possible. *NetGuide* reserves the right to edit letters for brevity, style and clarity and we don't guarantee publication — even if you ask us nicely.

Bring on the schmoozers

Dear *NetGuide*,

I am new to the Internet, but have already become a 'power user', so I decided to go one step further and purchase a magazine that deals with the Internet and your magazine fitted my expectations exactly, and for only \$3.50! I read the Mailbox section, and was disappointed by the other readers who were 'bagging' sections of the magazine. If readers want to complain, they have the option of buying another Internet magazine for \$9.95 which comes with a shareware disk full of utilities that could be easily downloaded from the Internet anyway. And I looked

at those magazines when I was first deciding which to buy — there's not much difference. If I were a reviewer I'd give *NetGuide* a Value Award. / **DAVID SMITH**
Awh, shucks... /Ed

Web page blues

Dear *NetGuide*,

In your "Helpdesk" (December 1999) a reader was asking about FrontPage 2000. Being a newbie to the Net I had the desire to build my own Web page. I had recently acquired Microsoft's Office 2000, which included FrontPage 2000. I was quite impressed with my Web authoring skills (I have no idea about html and don't wish to). I

went to download my creation to the Web, however none of the free hosting servers support FrontPage 2000 (and the 98 version) extensions. So I had to build my Web page at Geocities and now have this great site sitting on my computer where no one can see it and I have this wiz-bang program that I can't really do anything with!

/ **SCOTT TAYLOR**

Shop around Scott, many ISPs have free space for their users and some even support FrontPage extensions. / Ed

Speed freaks

Dear *NetGuide*,

After reading the article on the next generation of Internet access, I began to ponder about the speed of servers and whether it's my modem, ISP or the server that hosts the Web page that I visit that determines the actual speed that pages load. Even if I have a cable connection, will the speed at which I download be determined by the actual capabilities of the server I'm downloading from or the quality of my ISP? Or does it really all depend on my modem? / **YAO LI**

The speed a page downloads at is affected by the slowest link in the chain. If a site's hosted on a computer with a 9600 baud connection then it's going to be slow loading. However, the faster the connection

YOUR SITES AND TIPS >>

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www.excite.com/horoscopes/fun/loopy_libs/

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to your ISP the better — many ISPs run proxy servers for common Web sites, which means faster downloads. / Ed

Dear *NetGuide*,

In reference to the Newbies article, in the January 2000 issue. The article refers to alternative connections. Who would I contact to install a fibre optic connection?

/ ANDREW

The Internet Group (www.tig.com.au) offer a high-speed satellite service. Optus@Home (www.optushome.com.au) is in the process of rolling out it's fibre service and Austar and Chello (www.chello.com.au) are set to deliver cable Internet access to regional Australia early in 2000. It doesn't get much faster than that! / Ed

Inspired

Dear *NetGuide*,

I was very impressed by your Download column (December 1999). I feel people compromise their privacy without understanding the whole picture, or the full impact of what they are allowing to take place. There should be a lot more information provided to the public regarding the dangers!

Letter of the month

Snail pace

Dear *NetGuide*,

I was recently reading a complimentary copy of *NetGuide* and your article called "Web in your own time". I had to laugh when you sounded so disgusted that there once was 9600 baud modems for connection. I have one for you — my system currently operates on a 2400 baud modem. You think a 9600 was slow, you should try mine! / MICHELLE

That's a very generous offer Michelle, but I think I'll stick with my cushy ISDN line and 56k modem. / Ed

Your article has inspired me to collect allot more information about this. / MIKE

In with the old

Dear *NetGuide*,

In the December 1999 issue, you kindly identified CitySearch Melbourne (melbourne.citysearch.com.au) as Site of the Month. However, the report incorrectly stated that the site was new. In fact, CitySearch Melbourne — otherwise known as The Age CitySearch — was launched in July 1997; the Sydney version followed a few months later. / SIMON KAYE (FORMER CONTENT MANAGER OF CITYSEARCH MELBOURNE)

Any last requests?

Dear *NetGuide*,

I picked up your magazine for the first time last week after fumbling around on the Internet finding nothing of interest. I went through the pages and came up with over 30 interesting URLs to visit. The next day I sent my subscription form off straight away! I would like to see in an up coming issue an article on searching and all the jargon that goes with it as I have no luck with search engines.

/ MICHELLE NICOLE PELLING

Try our Australian Search engine feature on page 60 on for size Michelle. / Ed

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Netnews

GLOBAL AND LOCAL



Cars that fit your budget

If your biggest concern when buying a new car is how much money you can spend, Esanda has launched a handy new automotive site at www.esandaauto.com.

Instead of guessing at how much money a vehicle will cost, the site is set up so customers can search for both new and used cars according to their budget. Information on different financing options is also available.

Managing director Peter McMahon believes it is the strength of the 650-plus accredited car dealership network that will carry the site.

"The size, strength and reputation of our dealer network provides an excellent foundation on which to quickly build a leading online automotive trading

First broadband-ready news service

Local digital news and program production company ITVWorld.com has recently established Australia's first broadband-ready news service.

News bulletins, interviews and commentary are delivered daily via the new video and audio portal Oznetnews (www.oznetnews.com), News and creative director Scott Mathias says it is Australia's only 100% pure Microsoft Windows Media site.



"The Windows product is significantly superior to other available video and audio players available. It supports very stable 28.8k to 1000k video files and lends itself to some innovative synchronised multimedia opportunities," he says.

Mathias says it is a small taste of things to come for ITVWorld.com, which already produces daily technology audio news for

ninemsn (www.ninemsn.com.au). The company is currently developing more broadband-enabled programs, with several launches scheduled for the coming weeks.

"This video news content ushers in a new era of digital programming," says Mathias.

Fairfax bowls new cricket site

Cricket fans can now spend many happy hours online at the new Fairfax Interactive Network (F2) Web site, the Pavilion (www.thepavilion.com.au).

The site will feature commentary and analysis from Australia's test wicketkeeper, Adam Gilchrist, who says the Web has become an im-

Compiled by Caroline Warnes

portant part of all professional sports.

"I see the Internet as the future for transmitting sports results and analysis to sports fans. I always take a laptop on tour so I can stay in contact via email," Gilchrist says.

The Pavilion also includes live news feeds, reviews, articles, photographs and historical information. There is also an interactive component with games, competitions, online polls and forums and the opportunity to sign up for an email newsletter. And for those who like all their friends and acquaintances to stay well-informed of all their online movements, you can send an animated Cricketgram straight to their inbox.



Buy homeware online

Telstra has just launched an online department store devoted to home wares, ehomeware (www.ehomeware.com.au). The store is a part of Telstra's new shopping concept, The Arcade (www.telstra.com/thearcade/), which hosts almost 100 other e-tailers.

Ehomeware launched with 5,000 products, ranging from food and wine, to computers, to bedding and manchester. Some of the suppliers to the site are relatively small Australian companies, such as Woolaby Australia, a manufacturer of pure woollen garments.

Professional women have their say

Tempest Online Media recently launched a Web site which they claim is the first in Australia to be dedicated to professional women.

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Looking after the customer

Upfront Solutions (www.upfrontsolutions.com), a new business division of Ericsson (www.ericsson.com.au), has introduced an Internet customer service solution, Upfront Support.

Business leader of Upfront Solutions Tim Courtright claims research has shown 57% of online browsers are unhappy with current levels of customer service. To fight this trend, the new service is attempting to join the "self-service" power of the Net with the more personalised assistance of a call centre. This allows companies to talk to customers through text chat, telephone, voice-over-IP (VoIP) and e-mail.

"With the competition just a click away, the ability to predict and satisfy customer needs is increasingly seen as the key to attracting customers," Courtright says. The service blends an automated agent to give responses to FAQs and repetitive enquiries with a human support component, which is staffed by customer service personnel.

Tempest says the site, www.shesaid.com.au, will offer career advice, financial information, local and international news, features and reviews on travel, food and beauty and, of course, global gossip. This information will be updated on a weekly basis by a full-time editorial team.

Director Sharon Smith says the idea originated from frustration at the lack of such information previously available on the Net.

"The concept of SheSaid came out of years of surfing the Web and finding nothing to meet the needs of Australian women," she says.

"As SheSaid matures it will become very community based and will actively encourage the involvement of users, after all women are not normally shy when it comes to giving their opinions."



Access The Basement via Big Pond

Australian personality Doug Mulray has joined forces with Telstra (www.telstra.com.au) and

Sydney's live music venue The Basement to launch a brand new 24-hour Web cast service, at www.basement.com.au.

basement.com.au will be broadcast from Mulray's multimedia studio on Sydney's Lower North Shore across Telstra's broadband

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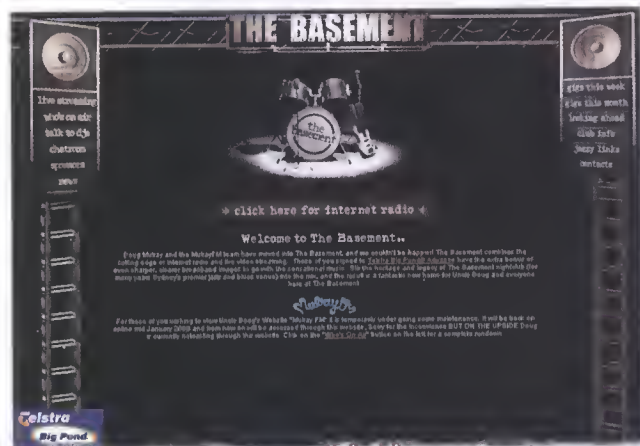
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If the shirt fits...

A brand new e-commerce site which is devoted to retailing men's business shirts has just opened its doors for business. The site, Shirtz.com.au (www.shirtz.com.au), is trying to tap into the core demographic of Internet users (male business executives and professionals between the ages of 25 and 45) by offering leading brand shirts such as Abelard, Ganton and Trent Nathan. With free delivery included in the package, CEO Jennifer Morgan believes it will be an attractive option for busy men.

"These guys tend to be time-poor. They know their preferred shirt brand and size and we believe they will relish the convenience of buying their business shirts over the Net," she says.

Internet service, Telstra Big Pond Advance. It will include live video streaming of on air announcers and live music performances in the studio by touring artists. There are also plans in the works to present live cybercasts from The Basement in Sydney's Reiby Place.

Mulray believes The Basement has always been one of Australia's premier venues for live music. "It has an ambience no set designer could improve upon; downstairs cool, redolent of pre-war Berlin with the faintest suggestion of the lower east-side complete with echoes of the passing parade of legends who've graced its stage. The Basement has a 25 year history of delivering discerning Sydney audiences the very best the music world has to offer," he says. ■



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ISP news

AOL partners with Aboriginal Australia

AOL (www.aol.com.au) members will be treated to the best of Australian Aboriginal culture with the launch of the Aboriginal Australia content in the ISPs lifestyle channel (**keyword: Aboriginal Australia**).



As well as providing AOL members with the ability to purchase items online, the area contains information on Aboriginal arts, culture and tradition, an Aboriginal news feed, links and exclusive monthly articles.

AOL managing director Carol Veriga says the sites will prove an invaluable resource to users.

CWO launches unlimited access package

Newly launched Optus@Home (www.optus.home.com.au), a venture of Cable & Wireless Optus (www.cwo.com.au), has joined the growing list of Internet service providers who offer unlimited access for a fixed monthly fee.

Optus@Home is the first cable Internet service off the blocks in Australia. Austar's (www.austar.com.au) offering through European company Chello (www.chello.com.au) is due to launch in regional Australia early in 2000.

The service is priced at \$59.95 a month with a one-off installation fee which includes a DOCSIS standard cable modem, Ethernet network card and a personalised training session by a technician.

The whole package includes a constant, high-speed connection, unlimited download capacity, five email accounts, five 5MB Web space accounts for personal homepages and 24 hour technical support.

Director of Multimedia, Donna Lachance adds there is another incentive for people considering trying the service. ■

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EVERY NOW AND THEN a product comes across my desk that shows great potential, and is a lot of fun to boot. Cidco's iPhone has provided me with

the most hours of entertainment since they took the soundcard out of my PC. What makes it rare, in Internet terms, is its out of the box connectivity. You literally unpack the phone, plug it into your phonejack, attach the power cord and it's a one-button process to connect to the Internet. The software modem and Internet access are built into the phone.

It's a total connection device, giving full access to email and Web sites — the 640 x 480 touch screen gives grayscale display of images, as well as an on-demand directory for phone numbers, email addresses and company Web sites. A reasonably sized QWERTY keyboard slides out from beneath the phone for entering text and a stylus allows you to navigate the touch screen

It does other funky things like caller ID and three way calling, but my favorite is the Web browsing capability. Phone numbers are highlighted, in the same way a URL is underlined in a normal browser. If you hit a number with your stylus (or finger) the iPhone suspends your Web session and dials the number.

Internet access is provided through Connect.com and there's a special homepage for iPhone users that displays the latest news stories, connects to international satellite weather reports and provides a search option for the Web. It's a great system, perfectly intuitive and very simple to use. It

doesn't accept email attachments (yet), nor will it allow you to download sound or video files. But for email users wanting basic web browsing capabilities, it's a great option. / **LOUISE RICHARDSON**

Psion Revo ★★★

Platform symbian os

Available from www.vodafone.com.au

RRP \$799

COMPACT AND STYLISH, WITH many of the features of Psion's bigger handheld personal digital assistants, the Revo is pumped for online action. It connects to the Net through a peripheral modem, a infra-red capable mobile phone or by synching with your PC.

Alongside the usual address, calendar and note functionality you'd expect in a handheld are a fistful of Internet tools. A simple eSetup wizard guides you through connecting to your ISP for the first time. If you're ready with phone numbers, usernames and passwords for an existing Internet account the process is fairly simple.

The email software is intuitive and very simple to use and it syncs with Microsoft Outlook or Lotus cc:Mail. The touch screen functionality makes it almost easier to use than your PC for email, and the keyboard is big enough that typing is easy — once you adjust to the size.

It's equipped for SMS (Short Message Service) text through the GSM phone network. Web surfing is available through a small grey-scale browser. This isn't a great experience, but will do if you need to access documents or information online.

The Revo is about the size of a large sunglasses case and weighs in at just 200g (about the same as a mobile phone). It has 8Mb RAM and you can expect about a weeks use from the two rechargeable batteries included. ■

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Shareware

UPDATES

Direct X 7

Homepage windowsupdate.microsoft.com/default2.htm

Download download.microsoft.com/download/wing8SE/Update/7.0/W9X/EN-US/DX7oeng.exe



The latest set of Direct X components from Microsoft. A must have for the serious gamer or multi-

media freak. Also at this site Windows Media Player 6.4 and all the necessary security updates for your version of Windows along with assorted patches, new versions etc.

BabelFish Translation Software 1.0.9

Homepage www.curchy.com/software/translate/

Download www.curchy.com/software/translate/download/translatedist.zip

Translate from any of the major spoken languages to any other. This service translates Web pages as well. It's a global village, right?

Netscape Communicator 4.7



Homepage home.netscape.com/communicator/v4.5/

Download home.netscape.com/computing/download/

An open email, groupware, and browser suite, overtaken by Explorer but still favoured by many. Features Flash 4 and Winamp 2.5



Q3Test

Homepage www.quake3arena.com/q3test/

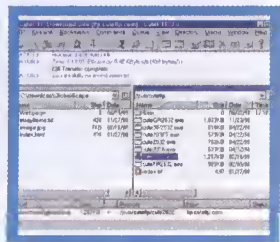
Download www.quake3arena.com/q3test/win32.html

If you have a graphics card capable of running Open GL drivers, and fancy a mind-blowing and addictive online gaming experience, download now. Outrageously good graphics and game-play as you kick butt and get your butt kicked by global adversaries. Note this is not Quake 3 Arena, but a test version of Quake 3 for new multi-player online technology.

Cute FTP Version 3.5

Download www.cuteftp.com

FTP made easy with this award-winning client. New features include MP3 & File Finder, easy Web Page Editing through the CuteHTML add-on, Auto-Dial, Persistent Transfers, Queued Transfers, Right-Click Shell Integration, and Macros.



○○○○○ ESSENTIAL
 ○○○○ VERY GOOD
 ○○○ GOOD
 ○○○ FAIR
 ○ DON'T BOTHER

By Bruce Davis-Goff

GetRight (32-bit) Version 4.1.1

Download tucows.mtx.net.au/files/getrt411.exe

A nifty download manager that handles resuming after disconnection amongst other tricks

CoperNic 2000

Download tucows.thewestcoast.net/files/copernic2000.exe

A free software agent that finds exactly what you're looking for by simultaneously consulting over 30 search engines including AltaVista, Deja News, Excite, HotBot, Infoseek, Lycos, Magellan, WebCrawler and Yahoo!. Featuring a detailed search history, automatic software updates and oodles of useful search management functions.

this to track what music you downloaded and listen to and where it came from amongst other user info. This data was then sent (without your knowledge or approval) to Real Networks when you used Real Player online. Understandably there was a great outcry and a patch has been released which disables the serial number and tracking. Download it from rjb-dl.real.com/realjukeboxso/getmuisc/update/autoupgrade.rmp



AREALSOLUTION

A RECENTLY DISCOVERED FUNCTION of Real Networks Real Player was to create a unique serial number on your computer and then use

TRANS COM BEE LINE

The fastest way to find anything on the Internet

"BeeLine is an all-in-one, easy-to-use automated Internet search program designed for anyone who needs to create, gather, and use information located anywhere on the Internet." Tech Directions, February 1999



Available from all good software retailers



SPL@SH!



>> BY TREVOR POULTNEY, CATHERINE LE NEVEZ & JENNY BRICE

THE OLYMPIC GAMES IS the undeniable highlight of the Australian sporting calendar this year and there will be no better place to check on information leading up to 15 September and results during the games than the Sydney Olympics 2000 Web site at www.olympics.com.

IBM is providing the backend technology and front-end infrastructure for the site and when the games begins around 100 people will be working on creating and maintaining content on the site.

SOCOG Internet business group program manager Mark Jackson says no one has done an events site of this magnitude before. "No one's spent as much money or lavished as much effort or thought on it and no one's tried to then run a business and earn some of this money back." This is the first time advertising and sponsorship revenue will be sought

from an Olympic Web site.

"We've tried to move the whole paradigm – it's not just a sports site for 16 days – we're trying to create something that's a 12 month experience that people will come to use as a resource, find out their Olympic news, if they're a sports fan they'll come to check about their sport. They'll find out all of the latest stuff that's going on whether its arts festivals or they'll come and visit our kids section and play games."

The new look site was officially launched in September 1999 and Jackson says there's not a day goes past that the site doesn't change. "One of the key target audiences we want to get to are children. SOCOG has fantastic education programs running in the schools at the moment, including a newspaper, education kit and the Web site for children."

New features will be added to the site in the

OLYMPIC SPORTS



DIVE INTO THE BEST AUSTRALIAN SPORTING DESTINATIONS ONLINE

months leading up to the games, climaxing with the official results for all events.

"At games time what a lot of people will want to be doing is getting at the results, tracking their favourite athlete and seeing how they've gone," says Jackson. "Obviously a lot of effort has been lavished on making the results coverage as detailed and as timely as we possibly can. One thing is certain there will be no better results coverage anywhere." IBM is also providing the results system, so as soon as a result is available in the results system it will be live on the Web site.

IBM's John Davidson says the traffic to the Nagano Winter Olympic site was phenomenal, but that was dwarfed by a tennis game at Wimbledon soon after. "Traffic continues to increase 400% increase year on year on our major sports sites."

The Atlanta Olympic site received around 20

million page views, Nagano had around 65 million page views. The estimates for the Sydney site are around 1.4 billion page views.

Jackson says the site will provide games coverage to every county and on every athlete. Each of the 10,300 athletes will have their own biography, links to country information and the results of everything they compete in – whether they are 1st or 51st.

City Search has provided a virtual tour guide to Sydney for visitors and the site includes online sales of Games merchandise, information on venues, the sports, athletes, countries competing, a history of the games and the Sydney Olympics, as well as the Olympic Arts Festival content.

The site will remain live until 31 December 2000, when it will be handed to the Official Olympic Committee in CD Rom format for archiving.

OLYMPIC SPORTS



ARCHERY

www.olympics.com/eng/sports/AR/about/

Archery Australia >> archeryaustralia.m6.net

A wide-ranging site for Australian archery, offering state, national and international records and competition information. Catch up on media releases here, as well as photos from the recent national competition. A comprehensive calendar keeps you up with future competitions and there are links to all the state archery organisations.

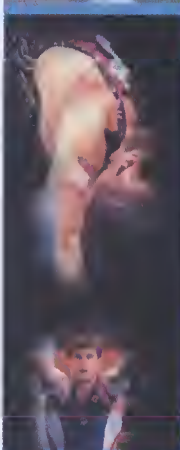
🌐 www.archerynsw.webcentral.com.au

🌐 www.usarchery.org

🌐 www.archery.org

🌐 www.ausport.gov.au/aisarch.html

🌐 www.archery-iffa.com



ARTISTIC GYMNASTICS

www.olympics.com/eng/sports/GY/about/

Australian Gymnastic Federation >> www.ausport.gov.au/gym/home.html

The official home of the Australian Gymnastic Federation, this site offers a smorgasbord of information about our Olympic hopefuls, including sections on athletes, an events calendar, a magazine, national team information, results, sponsorships, individual state information, and the opportunity to purchase official merchandise. If it's gymnastics-related, you'll find it here.

🌐 www.intlgyrnast.com

🌐 www.gymmedia.com

🌐 www.tumble.org

🌐 www.chinaolympics.com/team/gymnast.htm

🌐 www.redestb.es/fmg/



ATHLETICS

www.olympics.com/eng/sports/AT/about/

Athletics Australia >> www.athletics.org.au

Along with the expected results of major track and field competitions, this site provides extensive news archives and an intriguing database of past results from Australian athletes. There are personal profiles of key athletes and criteria for selection in up-coming events.

🌐 www.iaaf.org

🌐 easyweb.easynet.co.uk/~rsparks/affs.htm

🌐 www.pnc.com.au/~stevebn/cgi-bin/2000.shtml

🌐 www.telecall.co.uk/~pault/menu2.htm

🌐 www.olympic-usa.org/wallpaper/



BADMINTON

www.sydney.olympic.org/sports/badminton.html

Badminton Australia >> www.ausport.gov.au/badmin/bahome.html

The official site for the Australian Badminton Association, this is where you'll find all the information you need to know about the sport and the young hopefuls for the Olympic Games. The site has details on all the state members, profiles of players and upcoming events and rankings.

- 🌐 www.artworks.com.au/nextpoint/
- 🌐 www.intbadfed.org
- 🌐 www.richardhill.co.uk/badmint.htm
- 🌐 www.worldbadminton.com
- 🌐 www.geocities.com/Colosseum/Bench/8309/HBC1.htm
- 🌐 www.chinabadminton.com/english/



BASEBALL

www.olympics.com/eng/sports/BB/about/

Australian Baseball Federation >> www.ausport.gov.au/baseball/

This is a one-stop site for all your Australian baseball needs, although it was still under construction at the time of writing. Here you'll find a run-down of the history of the game in Australia and the rules. Results, stats and outstanding performances at both national and international levels are included, as is a table of Australian players currently making it big overseas. There are excellent links to other national and international sites.

- 🌐 www.ausport.gov.au/olym96/baseball.html
- 🌐 www.cyberus.ca/~lsiegel/bbgirls.htm
- 🌐 www.baseball.net.au
- 🌐 www.stone.net.au/playball/PlayBall.htm
- 🌐 www.ausport.gov.au/baseball/basepro.html



BASKETBALL

www.olympics.com/eng/sports/BK/about/

Australian Basketball >> www.ababasketball.net.au

This is the official site of the Australian Basketball Association, with well-organised links to all the state association sites. Here you can find the rankings and comments on Australian championship sides, quality action visuals, official media releases and statistics. A feature designed to arouse more than passing curiosity is the predictions made about diving for the coming season.

- 🌐 dynamic.basketball.net.au/sbj/iwl/nationalteams.htm
- 🌐 www.wnba.com
- 🌐 www.ausport.gov.au/ais/basket.html
- 🌐 www.fiba.com/
- 🌐 www.basketball.net.au/FastBreak/Contents.htm

OLYMPIC SPORTS



BOXING

www.olympics.com/eng/sports/BX/about/

Australian Amateur Boxing >> www.boxing.61.org

This is an independent public information site for Australian amateur boxing, a great first stop for local boxing schedules, rules and reading lists. This site does not shy away from health and safety issues, which are covered in detail. There is also a useful selection of links to other amateur boxing sites.

★ www.ausport.gov.au/boxing/boxpro.html

★ www.amateur-boxing.com

★ www.boxing.com

★ www.ipccss.com/writer/ibu.html

★ www.olympic-usa.org/sports/az_3_7_2.html



CANOEING/KAYAKING

www.olympics.com/eng/sports/CF/about/

Australian Canoeing Online >> www.canoe.org.au

This is a very well organised and topical site, covering all the various forms of competition canoeing. Hot news, results updates and useful links abound here. There is a lively canoe education zone, complete with policy and coaching updates. And to cap it off, if you are the type who gets out there and does it all yourself, this site has a facility to check river levels and conditions state by state.

★ www.geocities.com/Athens/7991/ka01002.html

★ sun.adventuresports.com/kayak/us-team/

★ www.ausport.gov.au/aiscan.html

★ www.voyager.co.nz/~delmark/nzps.html

★ www.sportec.com/www/fep/canoeing197/canoeing.htm



CYCLING

www.olympics.com/eng/sports/CR/about/

Cycling Australia >> www.ausport.gov.au/cycling/

The Australian Cycling Federation's homepage also incorporates the official site for the Australian Institute of Sport's road and track programs. Here you'll find a wealth of information about upcoming events, individual and team results, local and international rankings, rules of the sport and national records. The site includes rules and anti-doping policies, as well as a history of the sport in Australia.

★ www.uci.ch

★ www.bfa.asn.au

★ www.letour.fr

★ www.atta.asn.au

★ www.webcycle.com.au



DIVING

www.olympics.com/eng/sports/DV/about/

Diving — Australian Sports Commission >> www.ausport.gov.au/divsp.html

Here is the site to tell you all you ever wanted to know about Australian diving. As well as clearly setting out the background and description of the sport of competition diving, this site provides a detailed calendar of events for the next five years, results of recent competitions and excellent links to other national and international diving sites. There are also profiles of top Australian divers.

- ✿ www.n2.net/diving/
- ✿ www.bulk.newcastle.edu.au/ada/
- ✿ usadiving.org
- ✿ www.bulk.newcastle.edu.au/nswd/
- ✿ www.photosport.com/
- ✿ syncdiving/syncdiving01.html



EQUESTRIAN

www.olympics.com/eng/sports/ET/about/

The Equestrian Federation of Australia >>

www.ausport.gov.au/equest/home.html

Australia's official equestrian site features full coverage of our team's Olympic preparation. There's also a Who's Who in the sport, an event calendar (including full details of the Adelaide International Horse Trials), plus a section on the young rider dressage squad, and links to equestrian organisations around the world.

- ✿ www.zeta.org.au/~venhaus/
- ✿ www.horsesport.org
- ✿ www.badminton-horse.co.uk
- ✿ www.equisearch.com
- ✿ www.cyberhorse.net.au



FENCING

www.olympics.com/eng/sports/FE/about/

Victorian Amateur Fencing Association >> home.vicnet.net.au/~vafa/intro.htm

This Victorian site is affiliated with the Australian Fencing Federation and includes a comprehensive national section, with national points and rankings, the national calendar of events and details of the national selection system as well as state information. Also includes the latest fencing news, a forum, and an excellent links page.

- ✿ www.fie.ch
- ✿ www.fencing.net
- ✿ www.scherma-fis.it
- ✿ www.nd.edu/~dtl/fencing/natchamp99/natchamppage.html
- ✿ www.ggwfc.or.kr

OLYMPIC SPORTS



FOOTBALL (Soccer)

www.olympics.com/eng/sports/FT/about/

Soccer Australia >> www.ausport.gov.au/aissoc.html

This site offers the latest on Australian Soccer, from the official governing body, including a calendar, regularly updated news, and information on the full spectrum of Australian leagues, including the national teams. Also includes profiles of Australian players abroad. For details about Australia's women's team, The Matildas, don't miss

★ www.ausport.gov.au/matildas/.

★ www.fifa.com

★ ozsoccer.thehub.com.au

★ www.alphalink.com.au/~cbeattie/

★ jamiro.mtx.net/soccer/

★ www.abc.net.au/soccer/

★ wwwcgg.fifa.com/home.html



GYMNASTICS (Rhythmic & Trampoline)

www.olympics.com/eng/sports/GR/about/

www.olympics.com/eng/sports/GT/about/

Trampoline Sports Australia >> home.primus.com.au/z1/bounce/

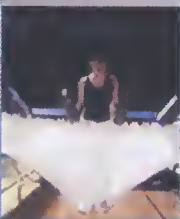
For comprehensive coverage of Rhythmic Gymnastics, the Australian Gymnastic Federation's website (www.ausport.gov.au/gym/home.html) has up to date news and information. For Trampoline Gymnastics, check out Trampoline Sports Australia (home.primus.com.au/z1/bounce), the official homepage of Australian Trampolining. This site has the latest technical regulations, information on the Australian National Teams, a calendar of major competitions, international results, and information about Trampolining and its disciplines

★ www.rsg.net/rg/

★ www.gymcan.org

★ www.thebtf.co.uk

★ www.trampolining.net



HANDBALL

www.olympics.com/eng/sports/HB/about/

Australian Handball Web >> www.personal.monash.edu.au/~lipsey/handball/

With full coverage and photos of the pre-Olympic test event, this well-designed site has sections titled "What is Handball?", "XXVIII Olympiad", contact details for the Australian Handball Federation, and an excellent list of Australian and international links.

★ www.ausport.gov.au/hansp.html

★ www.eurohandball.com

★ www.csd.uu.se/~t96gep/Handboll/links.html

★ homepage.tinet.ie/~ioha/



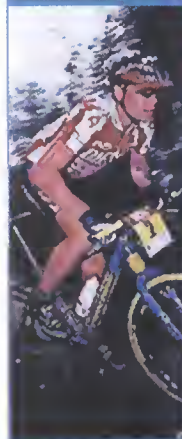
HOCKEY

www.olympics.com/eng/sports/H0/about/

Women's Hockey Australia >> www.hockey.org.au

This "supersite" of the reigning Olympic champions has extensive coverage of news and results, a calendar of events, in-depth player profiles, official rules, the background of the organisation and information about its leading officials, as well as a chat room where you can chat about the game with experts and enthusiasts alike.

- 🌐 www.fihockey.org
- 🌐 www.act.fieldhockey.net.au
- 🌐 hockey.enschede.com
- 🌐 www.cyberus.ca/~fieldhockey/
- 🌐 www.zool.com/hockeyroos/
- 🌐 www.fieldhockey.com
- 🌐 www.championstrophy.com.au



MOUNTAIN BIKING

www.olympics.com/eng/sports/CM/about/

OzMTB Mountain Biking Resource >> welcome.to/OzMTB

This self-titled "supreme mountain biking resource" provides a comprehensive guide to mountain biking in Australia, both professional and for enthusiasts across the country. With links to the pick of the world's top sites, and a full listing of Australian clubs, this is a valuable resource for all those mounties out there.

- 🌐 www.greatoutdoors.com/imba/
- 🌐 www.ausport.gov.au/cycling/
- 🌐 www.dirtworld.com
- 🌐 www.mtbinfo.com
- 🌐 www.mountainzone.com/mtbiking/olympics/
- 🌐 www.rawnrg.com.au



JUDO

www.olympics.com/eng/sports/JU/about/

Judo Federation of Australia >> www.ausport.gov.au/judo/

Excellent graphics and icons make this site interesting and easy to navigate. The Judo Federation of Australia's homepage covers all aspects of the sport including events, state and national programs, an organisation profile, commissions, an "about judo" section. There's also a comprehensive list of international links.

- 🌐 www.ijf.org/htmls/main.html
- 🌐 www.ozemail.com.au/~judoqld/
- 🌐 buzzbox.vds.com.au/~rodcx/jvi.html
- 🌐 www.rain.org/~ssa/judo.htm
- 🌐 ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/comvirke/
- 🌐 www.judonet.be

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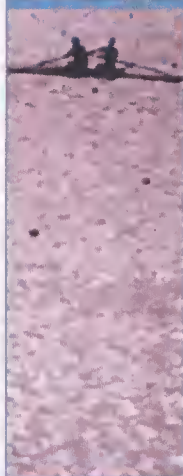
MODERN PENTATHLON

www.olympics.com/eng/sports/MP/about/

Modern Pentathlon in Australia >> www.ausport.gov.au/modsp.html

Produced by the Australian Sports Commission, this page gives a profile of Australian Olympic athlete, Alex Johnson and provides links to other Modern Pentathlon association sites. The Pentathlon was introduced to the games for the first time at the 18th Olympiad in 708 BC.

- ★ www.ausport.gov/modppro.html
- ★ www.pentathlon.de/indexnew.htm
- ★ www.pentathlon.org
- ★ www.pentathlon.de/indexnew.htm
- ★ www.pentathlon.de/indexnew.htm



ROWING

www.olympics.com/eng/sports/R0/about/

Rowing Queensland >> www.rowingqld.asn.au

This informative, up to date site is full of information about rowing in Australia. Members of Australia's senior and junior men's and women's teams are listed, with profiles where available. Some pages give the latest results, news headlines and resources and others list racing rules, boats for sale and contact details for affiliated clubs. On the lighter side there is an Inspiration page and a selection of low fat, tasty, nutritious recipes.

- ★ www.fisa.org
- ★ rowersworld.com
- ★ www.ausport.gov.au/rowing/
- ★ www.ausport.gov.au/row.html
- ★ www.regatta.rowing.org.uk



SAILING

www.olympics.com/eng/sports/SA/about/

Australian Yachting Federation >> aussailing.org

This comprehensive national site offers detailed information on sailing in Australia. Pages include the latest news, results, forthcoming events and world, Olympic and youth records. Sailing schools, coaches and available programs are listed, as are yachting associations and clubs. A variety of useful information can be found on the Useful Information page and profiles and biographies of members of the Olympic athlete squad and support staff complete an interesting site.

- ★ www.chariot.net.au/~gni/asg.htm
- ★ www.sailing.org
- ★ sailing.org/newrules/
- ★ www.american-sailing.com
- ★ www.cruising.org.uk



SHOOTING

www.olympics.com/eng/sports/SH/about/

Australian Shooting Association >> www.ausport.gov.au/asa/home.html

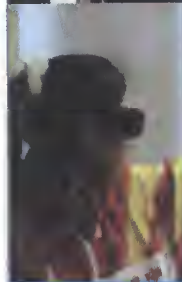
This site, produced by the Australian Sports Commission, has information about the Australian Shooting Association, a federated body with six affiliated organisations; Pistol Australia, Target Rifle Australia, Australian Clay Target Association of Australia, Sporting Shooters Association of Australia, National Rifle Association of Australia and Field and Game Federation of Australia. The site gives details of the Olympic Athlete Program and describes the ten different Olympic Shooting events. It also tells you how to get started in Olympic Shooting.

✿ www.auspistol.com.au

✿ www.ssaa.org.au

✿ www.ipsc.org

✿ www.greatsports.com/shooting/



SOFTBALL

www.olympics.com/eng/sports/SO/about/

Softball Australia >> www.softball.org.au

The official home page for the Australian Softball Federation, this site will tell you all you need to know from the origins of softball to the latest news updates about the sport. You will also find information about state and territory member associations, national championships and competitions and international events. Detailed profiles are given of all the players in the Australian Women's Team and the Australian Under 19 Girls Team and an impressive list of Australian and worldwide links is provided.

✿ www.softball.asn.au

✿ www.adelaide.net.au/softblsa/

✿ www.seniorsoftball.org

✿ titian.glo.be/eur.softball/



SWIMMING

www.olympics.com/eng/sports/SW/about/

Australian Swimming >> www.ausswim.telstra.com.au

The official Australian Swimming site showcases this high-profile sport in Australia. There is a sophisticated events calendar and a section for breaking news. The present rankings of Australia's swimming stars are provided which, when viewed in conjunction with the site's detailed historical archive, help to show today's swimmers in intriguing perspective. Swimmers are given detailed profiles and you can track the performances of your favourite stars.

✿ www.geocities.com/Colosseum/Field/8824/Thorpe.html

✿ www.inn.nl/sgg/swimrating/

✿ www.geocities.com/Colosseum/Loge/4516

✿ www.swimnews.com



SYNCHRONIZED SWIMMING

www.olympics.com/eng/sports/SY/about/

Synchro Swimming USA >> www.usasynchro.org

Here you'll find everything you ever wanted to know about synchronized swimming, right down to the specific details of nose clips and hair gel. To keep abreast of international competition there is a full event list, news and results. A "Kicks for Kids" page and a supporters' club add to the friendly nature of this site.

- 🌐 os2.iafrica.com/sport/old.synchro
- 🌐 www.geocities.com/Paris/Bistro/5090/synchronised.html
- 🌐 www.angelfire.com/al/dolfynn/
- 🌐 www.synchro.org.uk
- 🌐 fina.org



WATERPOLO

www.olympics.com/eng/sports/WP/about/

New South Wales Waterpolo >> www.nswwaterpolo.asn.au

This is a swept-up site featuring both local and national news and results. Highlights include "Ask the Ref" where you can check up on rules and disputes, and "Ask the Coach" for tips on training and coaching. There are background information articles on the sport in general and a forum for direct questions — a vehicle for everything you need to know about Waterpolo.

- 🌐 www.users.bigpond.com/MSN/paulwo1/
- 🌐 www.ewpra.org/ewpra/Teams/Teams_Clubs_Orgs.html
- 🌐 webnz.com/nzwaterpolo/
- 🌐 www.waterpoloworld.com/start.htm
- 🌐 www.ausport.gov.au/wpopro.html



TABLE TENNIS

www.olympics.com/eng/sports/TT/about/

Table Tennis Australia >> www.ausport.gov.au/tta/

Produced by the Australian Sports Commission, this site is the official page of Table Tennis Australia. It provides information on future events, results of competitions, tournament details, player rankings, and contact details for affiliates. The Australian team members are also listed. Coaches are not forgotten with their own regularly updated section. Links are available for international organisations.

- 🌐 www.ittf.com
- 🌐 www.sdttta.com/e-mail_directory.html
- 🌐 www.ottf.org.au
- 🌐 library.advanced.org/20570/
- 🌐 www.euronet.nl/users/kreische/ttlinkse.htm



TAEKWONDO

www.olympics.com/eng/sports/TK/about/

Taekwondo Australia Website >> www.taekwondoaustralia.org.au

This bright, attractive site is filled with information. It provides contacts for national and state officials, details of events and results, and a Taekwondo Newsletter. Olympic information on this site includes team selection trials, the Olympic Athlete Program, a list of players and a Sydney 2000 fact sheet. A page on Taekwondo basics aims to help players in their development with the sport.

✿ www.itatkd.com

✿ www.indiana.edu/~iutkd/history/tkdhist.html

✿ www.itatkd.com/pattern_menu.html#top

✿ www1.tpgi.com.au/users/rpadgett/



TENNIS

www.olympics.com/eng/sports/TE/about/

Tennis Australia Home Page >> www.tennisaustralia.com.au/ta/TennisAu.nsf/

An extremely comprehensive site, chock full of tennis information will be found at this address. Tennis results and tournament details for events around the world are given, along with pages on club development, coaching details, administration, junior information and the latest news. Other pages provide discussion groups and data on resources, publications and tennis in schools and information on veteran tennis.

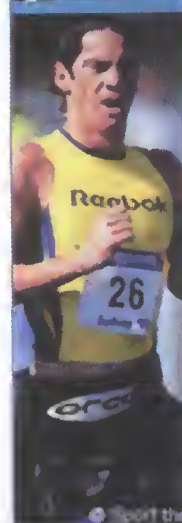
✿ www.wtatour.com

✿ www.atptour.com

✿ www.australianopen.org

✿ www.itftennis.com/fl_index.html

✿ www.daviscup.org



TRIATHLON

www.olympics.com/eng/sports/TR/about/

Triathlon Australia >> www.triathlon.org.au

This site provides profiles of Australian triathletes, news and links to state and territory associations. The Olympics are looking promising for Australian women triathletes Jackie Gallagher (QLD) and Emma Carney (VIC), who took gold and silver at the 1999 ITU Duathlon World Championships in the USA.

✿ www.triathlon.worldsport.com

✿ www.ironmanoz.com

✿ sunsite.anu.edu.au/canberra/TriathlonACT/

✿ www.trinsw.org.au

✿ home.vicnet.net.au/~trivic/welcome.html

OLYMPIC SPORTS



VOLLEYBALL (BEACH AND INDOOR)

www.olympics.com/eng/sports/BV/about/

www.olympics.com/eng/sports/V0/about/

Volleyball Australia >> www.avf.org.au

Volleyball Australia's official site is colourful and informative with an interesting logo. Pages cover news, school events, Australian and international results and resources and souvenirs. A Coaches' Forum explains strategies used in competition and an Officials' Forum discusses relevant topics. Links are provided to Australian and overseas sites and a gallery, under construction, is calling for team photos.

✧ www.qva.org.au/qva1.html

✧ www.usavolleyball.org

✧ www.wovd.com

✧ www.fivb.ch/Beach/

✧ www.fivb.ch



WEIGHTLIFTING

www.olympics.com/eng/sports/WL/about/

Queensland Weightlifting Association >> www.qwa.org

This Australian site provides a comprehensive array of information covering men's and women's lifting, training programs, rankings, competition results, coming events, other sites, contacts and FAQs. The site gives profiles of the ten men and seven women in the Australian Olympic squad and several fact sheets including one with a detailed description of the Olympic lifts. A discussion forum and a chat line offer you an opportunity to voice your opinion.

✧ www.iwf.net

✧ www.tcol.co.uk/comorg/cwf.htm

✧ www.lifttilyadie.com/w8lift.htm

✧ krista.tico.com/weights.html



WRESTLING

www.olympics.com/eng/sports/WR/about/

Int'l Wrestling Association Australia >>

www.iwrestling.com/news/messages/2719.html

Claimed to be the number one site for wrestling online, this page presents the latest news in graphic detail. It also offers opinions on various related subjects, and a discussion page for you to have your say. The Spotlight page offers exclusive interviews and other pages offers souvenir merchandise for sale and present details of live events.

✧ www.iat.uni-leipzig.de/wrestling.htm

✧ www.intermatwrestle.com

✧ www.auswrestling.com

✧ www.prowrestling.com/pages/wwf/

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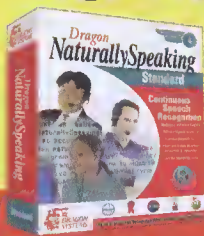
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P@R@LYMPICS

>> **BY DAN KAUFMAN &
SHANNON WARD-ROONEY**

THE OLYMPICS WILL JUST be coming to an end when 4000 paralympic athletes from 125 countries begin their competition on 18 October. The paralympic site is incorporated into the Summer Olympics Web site and support many of the same features of those games.

The Paralympic site has been made accessible for disabled Internet users, catering for visually impaired Internet users and those using alternative input systems to access pages.

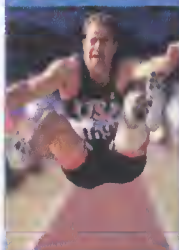
A history of the Paralympic Games, information about the Sydney event and news leading up to the games is available on the site, which will expand to incorporate results and news during the games.

OTHER SITES

- 🌐 Central Coast Sports Paralympics Site
www.centralcoastsports.com.au/paralympics.html
- 🌐 Australian Sports Commission Paralympic page www.ausport.gov.au/para.html
- 🌐 Sydney2000online.com
www.Sydney2000online.com
- 🌐 Motor Accident Authority — Paralympics site
www.maa.nsw.gov.au/paralympians/
- 🌐 Australian Disabled Athletes — Information Services infohunt.nsw.gov.au/lakemac/library/links/fff/athletesdisabled.htm
- 🌐 Independent Paralympics 2000 site
www.oh2.com/
- 🌐 Paralympic Overview www.olympic-usa.org/games/ga_2_2_1_1.html


ARCHERY | www.olympics.com/eng/paralympics/sports_venues/AR.html
NSW Wheelchair Sports Association's archery page >> www.nswwsa.org.au/

Archery was the first sport in which people in wheelchairs ever competed and one which poses the least changes in rules from able-bodied competition. NSW archer Arthur Fisk is world famous for his achievements in international competitions against able-bodied competition.


ATHLETICS | www.olympics.com/eng/paralympics/sports_venues/AT.html
NSW Wheelchair Sports Association's athletics page >>

www.nswwsa.org.au/sports/sport.asp?sport=Athletics

Get a run down on the athletic events for paralympians at this site and tips for hot contenders from Australia for the athletic events at the Olympic games. The competition covers the full range of athletic events — track, road and field events including 100m through to the marathon and the discus, shot put and javelin.


BASKETBALL | www.olympics.com/eng/paralympics/sports_venues/BB.html
Sandy Blythe >> www.elitesports.com.au/Blythe.html

One of the more likely contenders for Australia's 2000 Paralympic team, Sandy Blythe has been a permanent fixture in wheelchair basketball events for Australia for over 10 years. He was part of the team that scored gold at the 1996 Atlanta Paralympics and the Sydney games be his fourth Paralympic event.


BOCCIA | www.olympics.com/eng/paralympics/sports_venues/BO.html
IPC Boccia site >> info.liboro.ac.uk/research/paad/ipc/boccia/boccia.html

This ball tossing sport became a permanent fixture in Paralympic sports at the 1992 Barcelona Games. It is very popular among individuals with cerebral palsy, testing each competitor's degree of muscle control and accuracy. Athletes throw, kick, or use another device to propel leather balls as close as possible to a target ball.


CYCLING | www.olympics.com/eng/paralympics/sports_venues/CY.html
IPC cycling site >> www.paralympic.org/sports/sections/cycling.asp

Cycling first became a Paralympic sport at the Seoul Olympics in 1988, with mostly visually impaired competitors beginning the competition. Road race events were introduced that year, but it wasn't until 1996 that track cycling made its debut at the Atlanta games.


EQUESTRIAN | www.olympics.com/eng/paralympics/sports_venues/EQ.html
Riding for the Disabled Association of Australia >> www.rda.org.au

Australia's riding for disabled National Dressage Squad comprises 20 riders who are training hard towards selection to represent Australia in Sydney. Unlike the Olympic equestrian events horses are not brought to Australia for competition, so riders must adjust to borrowed horses for events. Australian riders have been involved in international dressage competition since 1994.

OLYMPIC SPORTS **paralympics**



FENCING | www.olympics.com/eng/paralympics/sports_venues/FE.html

Disability Sports — Fencing >> ed-web3.educ.msu.edu/kin866/fencing.htm

Paralympic fencing involves three main events – foil, epee and sabre fencing. These are again organised into four codes, determined by the athlete's disability classification. This site has comprehensive information on the rules and organisation of fencing competition.



GOALBALL | www.olympics.com/eng/paralympics/sports_venues/GB.html

The Goalball Home page >> www.thehub.com.au/~doggie/goalball.html

Goalball is a unique team sport for the visually impaired, played by 2 teams of 3 players. All Players are blind-folded to enable blind, visually impaired and sighted athletes to compete together. Unlike other sports, spectators must remain silent to enable competitors to the ball, which contains a bell.



JUDO | www.olympics.com/eng/paralympics/sports_venues/JU.html

IPC judo site >> www.paralympic.org/sports/sections/judo.asp

The only indication of a difference in paralympic Judo competitions is the texture of the mats upon which the competitions are staged, used to define competition areas. Judo has been part of the programme since the 988 Seoul Games.



POWERLIFTING

www.olympics.com/eng/paralympics/sports_venues/PL.html

IPC — Powerlifting >> www.paralympic.org/sports/powerlifting.asp

The official IPC site on powerlifting, you'll find information on the fastest growing paralympic sport, including details on all 10 weightlifting classifications. Check out the women's powerlifting links, as Sydney 2000 will be the first time women can compete professionally in this sport.



FOOTBALL / WHEELCHAIR RUGBY

www.olympics.com/eng/paralympics/sports_venues/RU.html

United States Quad Rugby Association >> www.quadrugby.com/qr-brief.htm

An excellent site for wheelchair rugby, known as quad rugby or 'murderball' in the United States. You can download a quad rugby file library, and source practically any information you can think of on the game, or the teams that play it.



SAILING | www.olympics.com/eng/paralympics/sports_venues/SA.html

International Foundation of Disabled Sailing >> www.ifds.org

This is a very well constructed site, giving details on international disabled sailing, teams and races and regattas from around the globe. Try the publications link to access a range of background, technical and inspiring information. Sailing makes its debut at the Sydney games — it was a demonstration sport at Atlanta.



SHOOTING | www.olympics.com/eng/paralympics/sports_venues/SI.html

AusPistol — Sydney 2000 Olympics >> auspistol.com.au

Click on to the most recent newsletter and scroll down to the paralympic section. This will give you extensive information on the organisation of paralympic shooting for the 2000 games

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[venues/SW.html](#)

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letennis.org/itc/
re and find world
Its and news and
g lists for the hot

[es/TE.html](#)

ns of the sport, as
wheelchair tennis is
tional circuit each
won in 1998.

[venues/VB.html](#)

o do with disabled
page, details on
photo gallery and



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OLYMPIC SPORTS **paralympics**



FENCING | www.olympics.com/eng/paralympics/sports_venues/FE.html

Disability Sports — Fencing >> ed-web3.educ.msu.edu/kin866/fencing.htm

Paralympic fencing involves three main events – foil, epee and sabre fencing. These are again organised into four codes, determined by the athlete's disability classification. This site has comprehensive information on the rules and organisation

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SHOOTING | www.olympics.com/eng/paralympics/sports_venues/SH.html

 AusPistol — Sydney 2000 Olympics >> auspistol.com.au

Click on to the most recent newsletter and scroll down to the paralympic section. This will give you extensive information on the organisation of paralympic shooting for the 2000 games.


SWIMMING | www.olympics.com/eng/paralympics/sports_venues/SW.html

Australian Paralympic Committee >>

www.paralympic.org.au/text/sports/swimming.html

This is the official APC site, where you'll find information on this fast paced sport, including classifications and a full listing of Aussie hopefuls. The races are among the most popular and competitive in Paralympic sport and are open to athletes from all disability groups.


TABLE TENNIS
www.olympics.com/eng/paralympics/sports_venues/TT.html

 International Table Tennis Committee for the Disabled >> www.tabletennis.org/ittc/

This is the official site for the ITTC for the Disabled. Click around here and find world rankings lists, player profiles, the ITTC Calendar, tournament results and news and views on disabled table tennis. Keep an eye on the site for ranking lists for the hot favourites in Sydney.


TENNIS | www.olympics.com/eng/paralympics/sports_venues/TE.html

New South Wales Wheelchair Sports Association >>

www.nswwsa.org.au/sports/sport.asp?sport=Tennis

This site give information on background, rules and classifications of the sport, as well as current programs offered, and links to find out more. Wheelchair tennis is almost as big as able-bodied Tennis competitions, with an International circuit each year. Australia has its own world champion, David Hall from NSW won in 1998.


VOLLEYBALL | www.olympics.com/eng/paralympics/sports_venues/VB.html

 World Organisation Volleyball for Disabled >> www.wovd.com

This is a great site offering information on seemingly everything to do with disabled volleyball, both standing and sitting. There is a good youth page, details on tournaments and competitions, useful international addresses, a photo gallery and newsletter.



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Do Something Useful

It's not just pretty pictures and pirated music. There are also some very useful tools out there on the Web. Bill Bennett offloads his 50 most useful bookmarks for all to see.



ABC Newsradio

www.abc.net.au/newsradio/

Function News and Finance information

News Radio is the ABC's non-stop information station. It broadcasts around the country and on-line through the Internet. Streaming sound is available from this site, so you can catch up on Australian news when you're overseas — provided you have a computer and a Net connection.

Andy's Anagram Solver

www.ssynth.co.uk/~gay/anagram.html

Function Solves anagrams

Ok, so solving anagrams might not be the most useful thing you can do on the Internet. But this site handles the task. You simply type in a word or phrase

and out pop all the possible anagrams. Great if you're bored or you want to make fun of workmates.

Arachnoid

www.arachnoid.com

Function Grab bag of useful Java applications. At this single site you can find these Java applications: a virtual calculator with scientific functions; a body mass index calculator that lets you know if you are under or over weight (and how much you would weigh on other planets!); unit converter and a world clock.

Ask Jeeves

www.askjeeves.com

Function Plain English search engine. We avoided the regular search engines in this list.

but Ask Jeeves gets a Guernsey because it employs a useful twist: it answers questions phrased in plain English. In theory it's a neat idea. In practice it doesn't work very well at all. I've personally asked it hundreds of questions and have rarely received a vaguely relevant answer. Nevertheless, it shows the way things can develop. Younger readers might want to try out the junior version of Ask Jeeves (www.ajkids.com) at the same site.



Australian Consumer Association

www.choice.com.au

Function Consumer Information

In depth reviews, truly independent advice and lots of useful information such as how to write complaining letters and what to do when a debtor goes bust. This site should be in everyone's book-mark file.



Australian Federal Government

www.fed.gov.au

Function Entry point to government sites

Want to see what public service Web developers do with your taxes? Here's your chance. This site is the launch point for any journey through the mountains of Australian government information. It's surprisingly good with access to lots of relevant and useful information. What's more it appears to be updated regularly. If you've got time, search through the site for the original version of Waltzing Matilda, the song everyone else thinks is our national anthem.

Babelfish

babelfish.altavista.com

Function Language translation

Named after an alien fish from the Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, Babelfish translates short text passages. Sometimes it works very well. Other times the results are...let's say...entertaining. It works, well sort of, with French, German, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese. There's also a downloadable translation program for your private documents.

CIA World Factbook

www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/

Function Information on countries

This site is great starting point for information on the various countries of the world. Not much depth, but nevertheless comprehensive. What's more, the information is reasonably well up-to-date, though at the time this review was written Tim Fischer was still listed as Australia's Deputy PM.



Cost of Living Calculator

www.mycareer.com.au/elements/toolbox/costliving_calc.html

Function Financial comparisons

Two separate calculators help you figure out how much money you need to earn to maintain your current lifestyle in other Australian cities and overseas. It can make depressing reading for people planning to move from Hobart to Sydney. On the other hand, from a financial point of view, a move to Hungary looks attractive.

Deja

www.deja.com

Function Search and access usenet news groups

Deja used to be known as Deja News — a site for searching Usenet news groups and accessing them through the Web. It still does this and does it well,

50 USEFUL SITES

but for commercial reasons Deja is currently trying to become another boring portal.

Dr Koop

www.drkoop.com

Function Medical news and advice

I can't say for sure this site offers the best medical advice — to do that requires five years at medical school and a ton of experience — but I can say this is the best-organised and smartest-looking medical advice site on the Web.

Encyclopaedia Britannica

www.britannica.com

Function Information

Once you needed a bookcase and personal finance to use Britannica, today you can view it for free if you don't mind advertisements. It's still an impressive source of wisdom. If you've a thirst for knowledge or a lengthy homework project to finish, you might find your self at this site all night.

eOrganizer

www.eorganizer.com

Function Online Information Manager

eOrganizer is an online version of a PIM (personal information manager) program like Lotus Organizer, MS Outlook or Symantec ACT. The site has an address book, diary and notes section. You can set dates and get an email reminder — useful for important birthdays.

Genealogy

www.genealogy.com

Function Find missing relatives

Want to know if you're 300th in line for the British throne? This is the place to find out where you came from and where your relatives are today. You

can search for information about your family name and start to build your own family tree.

Graphic Crunching

www.spinwave.co

Function Squeezes graphic files

Online software that takes graphics files and compresses them for faster downloading on Web pages. The site works with jpeg and gif file formats. There's also a newsletter for those working regularly with graphics.

House Call

housecall.antivirus.com/pc_housecall/

Function Scans for viruses

Trend Micro's House Call is a free software tool that checks your computer for viruses. In return for this service you have to watch some banner ads. In practice, House Call is the most effective online virus checker.

How Stuff Works

www.howstuffworks.com

Function Information

If you've always wondered how an internal combustion engine works, this is the site for you. It makes interesting use of animation to explain complex ideas.

Inquiry

www.inquiry.com

Function Expert programming advice

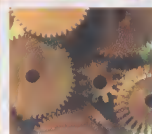
Advice and information for computer programmers at all levels above absolutely clueless beginner.



ISP Directory

www.cynosure.com.au/isp/

Function lists ISPs



Some useful tools for finding an ISP near you. The information is detailed and relatively up-to-date, but it always pays to check with the ISP for new pricing announcements.



John Howard

www.pm.gov.au

Function Hail the chief

A fairly basic Web site, you can't email the Prime Minister and some of the pages are bit lame. Nevertheless, there is useful information.



Kids Dictionary

www.macquarinet.com.au/kid/

Function Improve your word power.

An Australian dictionary created by kids for kids. It mainly deals with slang terms, which sounds dangerous, but in fact, responsible grown-ups edit the material, which means it is safe and fun.



Macquarie Net

www.dict.mq.edu.au

Function Online dictionary

Macquarie Net is a commercial site, but you can search for dictionary definitions for free. As you'd expect, it's a true blue, genuine Ocker dictionary – and the only one I know of with an entry for 'Neenish tarts'.

Map Machine

plasma.nationalgeographic.com/mapmachine/

Function Online Atlas

Map Machine features a set of interactive international maps. You can zoom in or out and move around to find key features. In practice the maps aren't that useful...but hey...they are free.

McAfee Clinic

www.mcafee.com

Function Computer service centre

A set of useful tools to ensure your computer is in peak physical (and mental) condition. It's a paid for service, but there's a free 14 day trial period.

"I want info on the coat hanger..."

"Do you mean a hanger for coats?"

The World

"...or our Sydney Harbour Bridge?"

Australia & NZ

50 USEFUL SITES

Mens Health

www.menshealth.com

Function Get fit!

Information on health and fitness for blokes everywhere with cleverly animated exercise routines.

Mirabilis

www.mirabilis.com

Function Online pager

Mirabilis is the home of ICQ, a basic instant messaging service that predates the branded instant messengers from companies like AOL, Microsoft and Yahoo. Because ICQ operates at a lower level than the branded instant messengers, you can use it to play games, swap files and run shared applications.

mtn*sms

www.mtnsms.com

Function Send messages to mobile phones

This site will allow you to send short text messages to mobile phone users for free. The catch is that in Australia and New Zealand, it only works with Vodaphone customers – which is a minority of mobile owners.



My Weather

www.myweather.com.au

Function Weather Forecasts

Ozemail's My Weather site uses information provided by the Bureau of Meteorology to provide a rolling four-day forecast. It's not perfect, weather forecasts rarely are, but it is frequently updated. You can also see satellite pictures and get pollution reports.



National Library of Australia

www.nla.gov.au

Function Information and books

A huge repository of online information with searchable links to various libraries around the country make this a must visit site for students and researchers.

Net Mechanic

www.netmechanic.com

Function Checks your Web site for errors

Another site that will check your Web site for errors. This one sends an email with the results. Generally you can fix problems yourself, though the email may suggest paid for fixes too.

Personality Type

www.personalitytype.com

Function Self-awareness

Knowing more about your personality isn't just self-indulgence. It can help you make the right career and lifestyle choices and smooth relationships with other people. This site tests your personality in minutes.



Post Code Database

www.auspost.com.au/postcodes/index.asp

Function Match place names with post codes

If you want your snail mail letters to reach their destination this side of doomsday, you need to use a postcode. The trouble is that it can be hard to find postcodes for unfamiliar places. This database matches place names with codes.

Scoop

www.scoop.co.nz

Function News for Homesick Kiwis

OK, this Web site might be of limited use to most Australians, but the 500,000 or so New Zealanders

living on the West Island might want to know what's going down in Godzone. For completely unbiased accounts of All Blacks games, the latest wisdom from Winston Peters and in depth coverage of the America's Cup, Scoop fits the bill.

Selectsmart

www.selectsmart.com

Function Make choices

This is the site for the indecisive. Selectsmart helps you choose things as diverse as dog breeds and wines by guiding you through a simple questionnaire and then ranking the results. A lot of the categories are too American to be of much use, for example Presidential candidates and mortgages, but there is help here for everybody.

Slashdot

slashdot.org

Function Hard core Internet programmer news

Slashdot is nerd central. You need some program-

ming experience to use the site, but it's packed with valuable data especially good for hardcore tech heads and Linux fans. Don't expect to read anything nice about Microsoft.



Start

www.start.com.au

Function Web-based email service

This web-based email service has many of the features its international rival Hotmail (www.hotmail.com) service does, but because it's less popular, you're more likely to get a meaningful user name.



Stockwatch

www.stockwatch.com.au

Function Financial

Most of the features of Ozemail's Stockwatch site are only free to Ozemail customers. However, there is a useful stock ticker that displays Australian stock exchange prices on your computer screen and a free service that delivers closing prices.



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AUSTRALIA & NZ

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results you're after.**

www.answers.com.au

50 USEFUL SITES



Superfax

www.supershop.com.au/superfax/

Function Send faxes from the Internet

A free Internet fax service that allows you to send messages to people in a wide variety of countries around the world without paying tolls.

Temperament Test

www.keirsey.com

Function Know more about yourself

This site might help you understand what makes you tick. And it might not. I tried the two personality tests and got mildly conflicting results. Even so, there are useful pointers to the career you should pursue.

Tom's Hardware Guide

www.tomshardware.com

Function Independent hardware assessment
Tom's Hardware Guide features deeply technical reviews and information on hardware components such as processors and graphics chips. It's a good jumping off point for people who want to know more about computers.



TV Guide

www.sofcom.com.au/TV/

Function TV listings

It might be debatable whether television has any place in a list of useful things. On the other hand, TV guides are useful because they can help you plan what you watch (as opposed to simply slumping in front of the idiot box with a tray of pizza and a remote control). Sofcom's TV Guide makes the cut because of its comprehensive listings of TV channels in all major Australian cities.

Universal Currency Converter

www.xe.net/ucc/

Function manages exchange rates

Want to know how many Polish Zloty you can get for your Venezuelan Bolivars? This site will convert most currencies you'll ever need and a whole lot more.

Updates

www.updates.com

Function Keeps your PC software up-to-date

This site, part of the Ziff-Davis empire, will investigate the applications on your computer and determines whether the versions are the latest. It then lists a selection of recommended downloads.

Web Site Garage

websitgarage.netscape.com

Function Gets your Web site ready for the road

A set of tools to tune your Web site for maximum efficiency. Get a tune up of your HTML and run a GIF lube to decrease the size of your images.

Whatis

www.whatis.com

Function Technology definitions

Whatis is an online dictionary of technology terms, with a significant bias towards Internet and personal computer jargon. In testing it actually failed to find three newish technical terms currently being used in trade publications — so it's not exactly up to date. Use with care.



When Love Hurts

home.vicnet.net.au/~girlsown/

Function Coping with abusive relationships

Advice for girls and women on how to spot abuse and how to disengage from damaging relationships.



Whereis

www.wheréis.com.au

Function Map Information

Whereis describes itself as an online street atlas. That's probably a tad modest. It's an interactive street map. You can zoom in and out of various locations and use keys to find the nearest cafe or shopping centre to a particular street.



White Pages

www.whitepages.com.au

Function Online telephone directory

Telstra's White Pages online telephone directory allows you to search for individual or business telephone numbers. It's a simple search engine and it generally works fine.



Yellow Pages

www.yellowpages.com.au

Function Online business telephone directory

Telstra's Yellow Pages site offers three ways of finding businesses. First, there's a conventional search engine facility that allows you to hunt for a specific company or service. The second search is a directory, which works like Yahoo! You start with generic headings and then drill down to more specific categories. Finally there is a guided search, which steps you through the process like a Wizard.



Your Mortgage Magazine

www.yourmortgage.com.au

Function Financial Information

Everything Australians need to know about borrowing money to buy a house and other types of personal finance.

The Your Mortgage site is packed with a wealth of information about mortgages together with up-to-date rate information. The best feature is an impressive set of online calculators that take all the hard work out of estimating costs and affordability. ■

For more of 'em useful sites, visit www.netguide.au.com

Your Top Job is on the Horizon



For Management, Professional & Technical Positions visit:

www.topjobs.com.au



do



The zip format enables you to compress and send files across the Internet without the risk of losing your data to an incompatible server.

Zipppety da

If you haven't already encountered one, some time in the near future you're sure to meet a zip file. This is a file with a .zip extension that must be "unzipped" before you can

access its contents. A zip file contains a collection of one or more files grouped together and compressed into a single "archive". It's much like what you do when you pack for a holiday and squash your clothes into a suitcase rather than carrying them loose. A zip file acts as the "suitcase" and carries a lot of smaller files inside it.

When a zip file reaches its destination it has to be opened and the files removed before you can use them. This process is known as unzipping, extracting or unpacking. The process of creating a zip file is called zipping, compressing or packing.

Zip files are great for moving several files from one computer to another and are popular (especially on the PC platform) for downloading program files from the Internet.

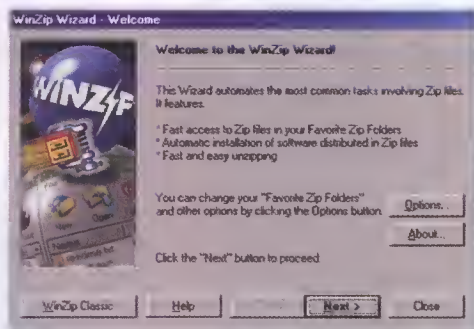
One of the most popular programs for zipping and unzipping files is called WinZip and this tutorial looks at the most recent version, WinZip 7.0. The program is shareware and you can download a fully-functional evaluation version from the WinZip site (www.winzip.com).

WinZip 7.0 offers a choice of two interfaces, WinZip Classic or WinZip Wizard. The Wizard will unzip files for you, but you can't use it to create your own zip files. If you're only using WinZip to unzip files that you download from the Net and you only do it occasionally, then you'll probably find the Wizard option easiest to use. Either way it's simple to flick between the two interfaces.

Unzipping using WinZip Wizard

1. Start WinZip and if the Classic interface appears, select File/Wizard to open the Wizard interface. Next it's a good idea to select "Options" in order to create special folders to save the zip files you download. (Tip: make your desktop a special folder – then when you download a zip file from the Internet, save it straight to your desktop.)
2. Click Next to move to the "Select zip file" screen. If you've set the desktop folder as a favourite folder (as suggested above), you'll find

TUTORIAL: ZIPPING



a list of files with a .zip extension. Otherwise there are options to search your hard disk to find all the zip files available.

3. Select the file you want to unzip from the list and click "Next".
4. If you're unzipping install files for a Windows application, WinZip will automatically start the installation process for you — simply follow the on-screen instructions. If unzipping documents or other files, you will be asked which directory you want to save the unzipped files into. You can choose to save them to the default directory, or click the "Select different folder" button to choose an alternate directory.
5. Select the "Overwrite matching files automatically" option if you're happy for the program to overwrite files that already exist without prompting you — if you're unsure, don't select this option. Make sure you select the "Display file icons after unzipping" checkbox. This will open the window of the directory in which your unzipped files have been saved when WinZip has finished uncompressing them.
6. Click "Unzip now" to unzip the files to the directory you have selected.
7. Click "Next" if you have another file to unzip or "Close" to exit WinZip.

Zippping using WinZip Classic

1. Start WinZip and select the Classic interface
2. Select File/New Archive or click the "New" button on the toolbar.
3. Choose a directory to save your new zip file into and give the file a name. Make sure you tick the "Add dialogue" checkbox before clicking "OK". (Note: this is a relatively unusual way of creating a file. In most programs you create the contents of the file, then save it. In WinZip you must create the file before you can add elements to it.)
4. Locate the files you wish to add to your zip file. You can select a group of files by clicking the first file in the list, holding down the shift key and clicking the last file in the list. You can select a number of individual files by holding down the control key while clicking each of them in turn. Further advanced options include being able to alter the compression type of the archive, refreshing files in an existing archive, automatically deleting original files once they are added to the archive and password protecting the archive.
5. Select the "Add" button to add the selected files. On screen you'll see the contents of the archive and the amount by which file has been compressed.
6. Close the file or exit WinZip.

Unzipping using WinZip Classic

1. Start WinZip and select the Classic interface
2. Select File/Open Archive or click the "Open" icon on the toolbar. Locate the zip file you want to unzip and click "Open".
3. The contents of the archive will be listed in the WinZip window. Select the individual files you



want to save to your hard drive, or don't select any if you want to extract them all. Then click the "Extract" button on the toolbar.

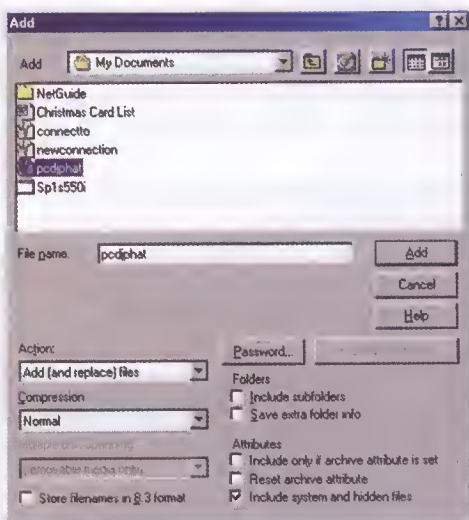
4. Select the directory you want to unzip to and indicate whether to extract all files or selected files only. Other advanced options on this screen let you create a new folder for your files, overwrite existing files without being prompted and deal with files containing path information.
5. Close the archive or exit WinZip.

Deleting files from an archive

To delete files from a zip file open the archive using File/Open Archive or click the "Open" button on the toolbar. Select the files you want to delete from the archive, then select Actions/Delete. This will present you with some options — choose the "Selected files" button and hit "Delete". The files are now permanently removed from the zip file.

Adding a file to an existing archive

To add a file to an existing zip file, open the zip file.



Select the "Add" button and from the dialogue box that appears, choose the files you want to add to your archive. Click "Add".

Viewing an archive's contents

From the WinZip Classic window you can view docu-

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TUTORIAL: ZIPPING



ment files inside a zip file without extracting them. To do this, right-click on the file and select the associated program you wish to view it with (eg, Notepad for text files, Acrobat Reader for PDF files, etc).

Backing up to floppy disk

You can create a zip file to span multiple floppy disks by creating your zip file using your floppy drive as the target drive. When the first disk is filled, you'll be prompted to insert the next disk

and click "OK". Repeat this process until the archive is complete. You can't use disk spanning to add files to an existing archive, as this method is only available for creating new archives. Remember to format the disks before you begin.

It may take some getting used to, but being able to zip and unzip files is an important skill to acquire if you're serious about making the most of the Net. To get started, download WinZip from www.winzip.com and get zipping! ■

ALternative ZIPpers

THERE ARE OTHER PRODUCTS on the market for zipping files and sending them over the Web. A good alternative is NetZip (www.netzip.com), which can be downloaded for a free evaluation from the site. The latest version, NetZip Classic 7.0, is a suite of four programs — a browser plug-in that downloads, unzips and installs files; a desktop version of the plug-in; and NetZip Folders, which allows you to treat zip files like regular file folders on your desktop.

NetZip is great for newbies, as the automatic install options make downloading files much easier. You don't have to save the file, exit the browser, work out where the file is and then install it. It all happens automatically after you begin the download. The program also allows for unzipping

of files within the browser, however this can be done using the stand-alone software. When the NetZip Folders part of the suite is loaded, you can add and delete files from zip folders using the Windows Explorer program. Instead of creating archives using NetZip, you simply save or drag and drop into these files as you would a normal folder, which removes the need to unzip and zip a file each time you want to use it.

Zip for Mac

Mac users, you can zip and unzip files using ZipIt — download it from www.shareware.com. The latest version is 1.4 and the program supports full drag and drop functionality for creating and unzipping archives.



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AUSTRALIA'S FAVOURITE

T H E C A S E

of the

M I S S I N G

S O C K



Kim Gilmour needs help finding things,
so we sent her off to eight Australian
search engines to see if they could help.



I WISH MY WARDROBE had its own search engine. Then I wouldn't be rummaging through all my drawers trying to match odd socks. I could just ask my virtual butler, Jeeves (www.askjeeves.com), "Where can I find my missing socks?" Within seconds, he'd tell me exactly where to retrieve them, and I'd probably discover a few other things in my drawers I never knew I had while I was at it.

With all that unfamiliar territory to cover on the Internet, the aim of a search engine is to allow an Internet user to find exactly what they're looking for within seconds, just by typing in a few relevant words or phrases. Search engines work in a number of different ways. They might automatically crawl like spiders all over the Web, indexing millions of sites after inspecting key words featured on the sites. Then there are directory based engines such as Yahoo!'s that include a comprehensive listing of subject indexes that are manually entered and scanned for quality by the organisation's staff — making the site easy to navigate, but perhaps excluding many other good sites in the process. (This is like keeping a maid at hand to separate your clothes into different drawers according to colour or type.)

Some search engines incorporate both these facilities, possibly hoping to enhance your research experience, but during some of my own inquiries, I found myself yelling, "Too much information!"

There are also mega search engines that deliver a single set of results after simultaneously trawling through several other search engines, in a process

known as meta-searching or meta-crawling. It's been said that the whole World Wide Web is barely covered by search engines, and it's impossible to know how many sites they haven't found yet. So don't just stick to one search engine and consider refining your research by using specialised search engines.

Where to start?

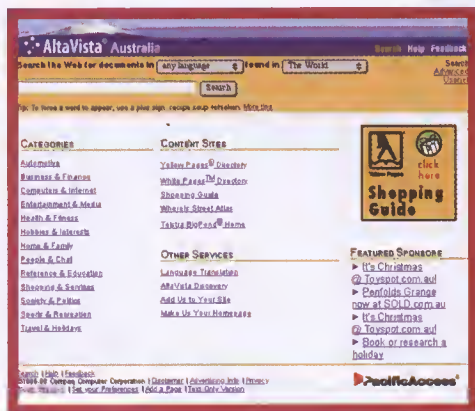
Know what you're looking for when you begin, and be smart about it. Your search engine home page will have some specific tips, but generally if you are looking for a particular phrase or name, use quotation marks, such as "Ben Folds Five" or use plus or minus signs to ensure words or phrases are either included or excluded from your search.

A Boolean search, recognised by most major search engines, uses pretty self-explanatory terms: AND, OR, NEAR and NOT in between your key words (the Boolean words must be capitalised). Asterisks can also be used as "wild cards" in place of parts of words in some searches. Other more advanced techniques are outlined on many online tutorials available (see page 64).

If you're using a subject-based search engine, you may find a category that covers a more general topic you might be searching for — say, people in entertainment, just by clicking through the headings presented to you on its start page. Get your spelling right, and make sure your search doesn't include superfluous words, otherwise you'll get too many results.

We've attacked eight Australian focused engines to see what the offerings are like locally.

SEARCH ENGINES



Altavista Australia

altavista.yellowpages.com.au

A hybrid of the local Looksmart directory service and the large international Altavista search engine for international sites, Altavista is a good stop if you want quantity over quality in your searches. Altavista uses a crawler method to collect its sites, so while you'll get a lot of results, they may be a bit off the mark. If you're browsing the directory listings you'll get more joy using the Looksmart site — at least they allow you to search the database. For international and obscure content use the search function and delve into the great abyss of over 125 million unique pages.

AAA Matilda

www.aaa.com.au

Upon initial viewing, the Aussie site, AAA Matilda has a pretty confronting Web page with a multitude of text. But it's actually broken down into State-centric search engines, providing you with a range of local



content. There are some additional features including message boards and free classifieds.

Answers

www.answers.com.au

This Web search engine is very helpful, with its Power Search facility enabling the user to narrow

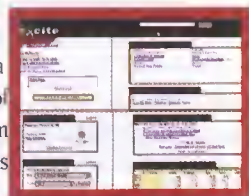


down a search to a specific domain like **.gov.uk**. You can choose to view sites that only contain particular features such as Java, video, audio or images and they have a people search function. I looked up my Sydney-based friend, Phil, online and came up with his home page right away, whereas I could not with most of the other Australian sites.

Excite Australia

www.excite.com.au

Excite claims to have "a deep and rich section of Australian content from all over the Web". It has organised much of the content into topic channels, which can be searched or browsed through. The emphasis from the front page is more on the content available (news, horoscopes, stock quotes etc), though there are powerful search options for Australian



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SEARCH ENGINES

Specialised Search Engines

>> Many niche search engines specialise in bringing you results related to a particular field, such as ftp sites. Start with The Big Hub (www.thebighub.com), which is like a search engine for search engines and lists 1500 specialty ones. Here are some interesting specialised searches:

ftpsearch.lycos.com/?form=medium

Fast FTP search site hosted by Lycos. Claims to be the world's largest, with 100 million files.

www.yahooligans.com

The kids safe search engine, which presents sites for, about and by kids.

www.homepage.com/zhub/

Download millions of shareware files. Find mp3s, applications, desktop themes and games.

www.audiogalaxy.com

Music, music, music – in all its different forms.

www.mrshowbiz.com/search.html

Find out the latest entertainment information on Mr Showbiz's site.

www.mp3.com

Find and download new or favourite songs.

www.eqosurf.com

Egosurf! Look for pages containing your name. Brilliant ego-boost, but utterly useless.

[www.maths.usyd.edu.au:8000/
MathSearch.html](http://www.maths.usyd.edu.au:8000/MathSearch.html)

200,000 mathematical documents to search through. Pythagoras and that other guy who did those things with circles would be proud.

sites and international sites through the **www.excite.com** database. The advanced search feature has a helpful interface for users who are new to searching.

Looksmart

www.looksmart.com.au

One of Looksmart's major benefits is that the content is created by humans, so not only are the sites of

high quality, but the content explanations actually make sense. The engines extensive content directories are also featured on Anzwers', Altavista and Excite Australia's Web sites (for more info on such alliances, visit [searchengine watch.com/reports/alliances.html](http://searchengine.watch.com/reports/alliances.html)). Due to the transient nature of many Web pages, it's very common for a lot of the links to turn up dead. A quick comparison suggests that any outdated subjects links were generally the same for both sites.

Web Wombat

www.webwombat.com.au

Web Wombat has an excellent online newspaper search facility and downloadable maps of cities.

But one thing that irked me were the sometimes incomprehensible search result abstracts.





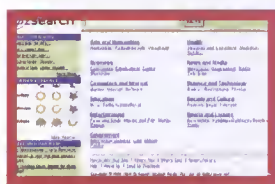
The front page is ordered to point to essential bookmarks for Australians, so if you're just browsing there's plenty of content here.

OzSearch

www.ozsearch.com.au

Clean, comprehensive and efficient, it clearly models itself after international directory sites, which isn't a bad thing. The thing that makes OzSearch different is that it claims to have already surpassed Yahoo! Aus-

tralia's index of local Web content, with over 24,000 sites in its index. It only lists sites created by Australians

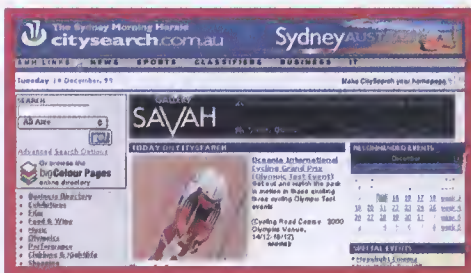


or about Australia, and its commitment to listing such sites is impressive.

Citysearch

www.citysearch.com.au

Most of the Australian search engines aren't good at listing up to the minute information about par-



recruitment technology for the new millennium

www.
employment.com.au

The place to find the best jobs!




CAREERMATCH



For more information call (02) 9267 9244 or email eoainfo@employment.com.au

SEARCH ENGINES

International Sites



>> Let's not forget the international sites that do list Australian sites and are easily capable of bringing you the results you're after.

www.askjeeves.com

Jeeves referred me to the enthralling Bureau of Missing Socks (www.jagat.com/joel/socks.html) when I asked him where mine went.

www.google.com

Google is magic. It finds the most relevant site according to the link structure of the Internet by using funky algorithm techniques. Instant success

www.webcrawler.com

Check out what other people are searching on Webcrawler. A window pops up on your screen with other people's searches scrolling across.

www.northernlight.com

Results include information from books, magazines, databases and newswires, providing surfers with relevant, up to the minute reports.

www.altavista.com

One of the world's biggest, with an Australian version, and a favourite for looking for international sites.

www.lycos.com

One of the earliest players in the search engine market. See the lycos50 (50.lycos.com) for popular search items each week.



ticular events, such as art exhibitions. Citysearch is good for this sort of thing, but only if you're in Sydney, Melbourne or Canberra. I looked up the Art Gallery of NSW's Michelangelo to Matisse exhibition just by typing in 'Michelangelo exhibition', and it came up straight away.

Yahoo! Australia and New Zealand
www.yahoo.com.au



Despite its frequent forays into portal services such as news, shopping, email and auctions, Yahoo! hasn't lost focus on what its main job is — a directory service for Web sites. Australian content is relatively comprehensive and well organised and you can choose to restrict searches within Australia or expand to the whole international Yahoo! (www.yahoo.com) database.

Sock it to me...

In terms of readability and extent of Web coverage, the Australian versions of the US-based sites, Excite (www.excite.com.au) and Yahoo!

(www.yahoo.com.au) proved the most extensive and user-friendly. As with most of the other Australian-hosted search engines, users can distinguish whether they want to view international, Australian or New Zealand sites with the click of a mouse. Excite lists sites according to relevance, and the "more like this" option allows you to see similar Web sites.

Looksmart is driving many of the local search engines and the human behind the review touch means

you can tell quickly whether the results are relevant or not. A cool feature offered through the US Looksmart site is Looksmart Live (www.looksmart.com/live/). If you can't find something in their database you can email a live editor day or night and they'll help you find a site to fit your needs.

There's no conclusive winner for the Australian search engine war. If you want greater freedom and would like to use a site that uses a robot to index its sites, I would use Anzwers. Webwombat isn't bad, but its search engine could be a little smarter and its Web site could look a lot more intuitive.

Beginners looking for a good Australian search engine should check out OzSearch and Looksmart. Likewise, the most timely, up-to-the-minute information about particular exhibitions, events and the like, are easiest found through Citysearch.

Experiment with the different search engines, including the international ones, until you find the ones you are most comfortable with.

Now if only I could find my socks... ■

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long queues, and no parking spaces?



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You still need
human beings to

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and narrowing the search down to the most useful stuff
the web has to offer.

All search engines do the "look" part.

Only one does the "smart" bit.

looksmart™

www.looksmart.com.au

easy to find

by James Baker

OVER THE PAST FEW months we've looked at various ways of making your Web site look good and do something useful. But now that all your wonderful ideas are up on the Web for all to see, what can you do to make people actually see them? There are millions of Web sites out there. How on earth is anyone going to find yours?

Fortunately, there are one or two tricks that can make you site stick out from the crowd. Firstly, there is HTML itself, which includes tags that will tell people what is on your site, and secondly there are search engines, sites that list other sites. The trick is using the first of these tools to make the second describe your site properly, so it will be easily found by search engines, and ranked appropriately when a user looking for the information you have on your site uses a search engine to find it.

Not all HTML tags impact on the layout of a page. Meta tags, for example, describe the page and aren't rendered by the browser, so don't affect the look of text or images. There are a handful of meta tags, but the ones that are of use to us here are content and keywords.

Meta tags sit at the top of the page, inside the **<head>** tags. Like a **<!--comment-->**, each meta tag is treated as a portion of the Web page which should not be rendered by the browser. After establishing the tag is a meta tag, it is then necessary to say which it is. This is done with the "name" qualifier. So to insert a description of your page, you use the following:

```
<meta name="description">
```

The browser now knows that what follows are key-

words in the document, however the "content" qualifier is required to describe the actual words used. The full code for the page description would be:

```
<meta name="description" content=  
"put what your page is about here">
```

This acts as a title descriptor, or abstract, for search engines indexing your site. In the absence of any other information, AltaVista (www.altavista.digital.com) and some other search engines, will index all words in your document, and will use the first few words as a short abstract to serve back. It is possible for you to control how your page is indexed by using the meta tag to specify additional keywords to index and/or a short abstract.

The meta tag "keyword" field can be used to specify additional key words or synonyms that describe the contents of a site. The keywords can include up to 1,000 characters of text. Be sure the keywords chosen are relevant to the contents of the page. The code for this is:

```
<meta name="keywords" content=  
"put, your, keywords, here">
```

It is a good idea to use acronyms and spell them out. So if you are the president of the Internet Preservation League, you should use IPL as well as internet, preservation, and league.

Using meta tags can come in useful if you use a graphics entry page into your site, where a single image acts a front page. Say the page is titled "Home page," and has a header that says "Welcome to my home page". Search engines that index this page will probably return a listing like this:

Home page

Welcome to my home page

But if it is a site for the Internet Preservation League, with details of how people can help the Internet from self-destructing under the weight of spam email, then using a content and keyword entry will help the site be found with people with the same interests. The full header of the site should look something like this:

```
<head>
<title>Internet Preservation League</title>
<meta name="description" content=
"Save the Web from spam">
<meta name="keywords" content=
"internet, protection, league, IPL, email,
no, spam, organisation">
</head>
```

Now your listing will look something like this in search engines that support the descriptions tag:

Internet Protection League Save the Web from spam

Notice how the description matches what's in the description tag? That's exactly what the meta description tag does. It lets you control the description that appears.

The meta keywords tag gives your page a chance to come up if someone types in any of the words listed. For example, someone might enter "email", which will match with one of the keywords in the tag. Without that tag, there would be no chance at all, since "email" doesn't appear on the page or in the description tag.

Remember, you are using these tags to help

make up for the lack of text on your pages, not as a way to successfully anticipate every keyword variation a person might enter into a search engine. The only hope you have of ever doing that is to have good, descriptive pages with good titles and text that is not buried on the bottom of the page by JavaScript, frames tags or tables. The meta tags are a tool to get around these problems. And don't try to be too clever. If you added "sex" to the above list you could expect both traffic and hate mail to increase dramatically.

Getting publicity

Most people use search engines like Yahoo! (www.yahoo.com.au) or AltaVista to find sites of interest. If you want people to find your Web site, register it with the search engines by visiting either Submit-It (www.submit-it.com) or Add Me (www.addme.com). These sites let you register your Web site with several search engines at once, so you do not have to hunt each one down.

Other ways of getting your site noticed include using the Internet Link Exchange (www.linkexchange.com), which advertises your site for free using banners like those big companies use to advertise online. In exchange for displaying other people's banners, they will display yours.

You can also see if your ISP has a newsgroup or other mechanism for announcing new Web sites. Also, post your new site announcement at newsgroups related to your site's topic. To search for newsgroups, visit Usenet Info Centre Launch Pad (sunsite.unc.edu/usenet-i/).

By using meta tags intelligently and promoting your site around search engines and other sites, you can ensure that all the effort you put into your site will not go unnoticed on the Net. ■



NEW TO THE NET>> THE TRUTH ABOUT ISPs

In last month's New to the Net, Anna Raciti looked at modems and the vital part they play in connecting you to the Internet. This month we look at Internet Service Providers (ISPs). What is an ISP? How do you choose between them all? And which connection plan will work best for you?

JUST AS A TELEPHONE call relies on your phone company to connect you to the number dialled, so ISPs serve as the link between you and the Internet. An ISP, or Internet Service Provider, is a company that sells Internet access to its customers. Whether you dial into the Internet via a standard phone line, by satellite or cable modem, the information you send and receive over the Internet travels via your ISP.

When you connect to the Internet through a standard phone line, your modem dials into one of the many modems housed at your ISP. When you've chosen which ISP you'd like to join, you'll be given instructions on how to set up an account with them. Some ISPs will even provide you with a starter kit including a set-up CD to help you make your first connection.

All ISPs will provide instructions that include a phone number that your modem will need to dial in order to "log on" to the Internet.

Connecting to your ISP is easy—it's the process of choosing an ISP that's tough. There are hundreds of ISPs in Australia (www.cynosure.com.au/isp/), each offering what they claim are the best and cheapest deals in town.

When you go looking for an ISP, make sure to check whether the ISP you're interested in has a Point of Presence (POP) in your area—this ensures that the ISP provides a service in your region. Also, if you've bought a modem that's capable of 56kbps speeds, make sure the ISP supports connections at that speed—otherwise you'll find yourself surfing at under 33.6kbps.

What you want

Before choosing an ISP and signing up to a plan, the most important thing to establish is what you want from your Internet access. Will you be using the Internet just to send and collect e-mail? Will you be doing a little surfing for study or research purposes? Or will you be surfing for hours on end? Also consider how many people in your family will be using the Internet and whether the ISP will give you multiple e-mail addresses for every member of your family.

If you're going to use the Internet just for e-mail and occasional Web use, you might be better off choosing an ISP that offers cheap hourly rates—you pay only for the time that you use. Heavy Internet users—those planning to spend more than around 30 hours online per month are probably better off searching for a value-packed unlimited access package. Other users can settle on a monthly plan depending on how many hours they plan to spend online.

If you decide that an hourly rate is the way to go, you'll find access anywhere from \$5 per hour down to bargain basement rates of under 50 cents per

hour. Usually the difference in price is connected to the size of the ISP and the additional services that the ISP can provide. Some ISPs provide services such as space to store your own homepage, a news and entertainment service and other content for their customers. An ISP with a presence in many locations can also offer you local call access to their service from anywhere in the country and in some overseas locations too.

Whether you spend 3 hours a month online, or 60, most ISPs offer monthly rates to suit. Rates vary widely—expect anywhere between \$10 and \$20 a month for 10 hours access. If you've never connected to the Internet before, it's very hard to guess how many hours you'll be spending online per month (see the sidebar "Judging Your Time Online?" for help). Start by connecting to a plan that gives you at least 10 hours per month—it may sound like a lot of hours, but it's just over two hours per week. You'll need at least that much time to properly sample all that the Internet has to offer. And if more than one person in your family is going to be accessing the Internet—you're going to go through hours fast!

orientation oceania

A guide to the Internet in Australia, South Pacific and beyond
oc.orientation.com

>> Modem Ratios

Not all ISPs are created equal. Some ISPs simply don't have enough modems to properly cater for their growing client base. When this happens, users dialling into the ISP are faced with an annoying engaged signal – because all of the ISP's modems are being used.

Reputable ISPs are careful to strike the right balance between customers and installed modems, but how do you know if your ISP is well equipped? One way to find out is by asking the ISP about its "modem ratio" — the ratio of customers to dial-in modems – a ratio of around 10 to 1 is acceptable. But no matter what an ISP might say about its modem ratio, you'll find out soon enough how well they cater for their customers—if you're constantly encountering engaged signals when you log on — look elsewhere.

What you need

Once you're a seasoned user, you might decide that it's too hard keeping to even 20 or 30 hours online. Are your ISP fees going through the roof? Do you dream about the Internet in your sleep? An unlimited access account will allow you to stay on the Internet for as long as you like for between \$25 and \$60 per month. A warning though before you sign up to an unlimited plan. Always read the fine print: some "unlimited" plans impose a mega-byte (MB) download limit, which means you can only download a certain amount of data before you start having to pay extra. You may not think you're going to download a lot of information, but every single piece of text and every image you see on your screen during a session is included in that count, and it all adds up. If you want to know how

many MBs you are downloading per session. Check the "bytes received" figure before you disconnect.

Some ISPs also impose a maximum connection time on their unlimited plans. This means that you won't be able to stay connected more than, for example, seven hours per session. This may sound rough, considering you're paying for an "unlimited" connection, but it does stop people from keeping a connection open all day (for the price of a single local call), needlessly typing-up a modem that someone else could be using. Now you're armed with enough information to find an ISP, so get connected and start surfing. ■

>> Judging Your Time Online

Judging how many hours you'll be spending online per month is not easy, especially if you're unfamiliar with the Internet. But there are a few activities on the Internet that are notorious for frittering away the hours. If you're going to be gaming online, chatting it's likely you're going to be spending a lot of time online.

Gaming Zones such as The Microsoft Zone (zone.msn.com) and Battle.Net (www.battle.net) are becoming very popular – you can play your favourite computer games against real opponents from all over the world and we all know how addictive gaming can be. Internet Relay Chat (IRC) has perhaps become the most addictive online activity. In chat rooms you'll meet and get to know people from all over the world. You'll be amazed how easy it is to talk to strangers about the most trivial or profound topics until the early hours.

WIN



THE OLYMPIC STORE ON-LINE

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4 lucky readers
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WIN

>> Shane Gould Framed Pin Set RRP \$249



Oar Pin Set
name RRP \$199



>> ROC Pennant Framed
Pin Set RRP \$199



>> ROC Oar Pin Set
in Frame RRP \$199



>> Limited Edition Picogram
Framed Pin Set RRP \$349



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Answer the simple question online

www.netguide.au.com/win/

WIN



THE OLYMPIC STORE ON-LINE

4 lucky readers will each win a
**framed Sydney 2000
 Olympic Games pin set**



>> Shane Gould Framed Pin Set RRP \$249



>> AOC Pennant Framed
 Pin Set RRP \$199



>> AOC Oar Pin Set
 in Frame RRP \$199



>> Limited Edition Pictogram
 Framed Pin Set RRP \$349

Answer the simple question online
www.netguide.au.com/win/

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF ENTRY 1 Instructions on how to enter this competition form part of these conditions of entry. 2 Entry is open to all Australian residents. 3 To be eligible to enter this competition, participants must correctly complete the survey and answer the competition question before 15 February 2000. 4 Directors, management, employees and their immediate families, their retailers, prize sponsors, suppliers, associated companies, agencies and distributors of Australian NetGuide Pty Ltd are not eligible to participate in this competition. 5 Competition commences 19 January 1999 and closes 15 February 2000. 6 Only one competition entry is permitted per individual. 7 Prizes will be drawn by Australasian NetGuide Pty Ltd at their premises: Level 4, 160 York St, Sydney NSW 2000 at 10am 16 February 2000 and if necessary a second chance draw will take place at 10am 16 May 2000 at the same location. For SA, a draw will be held to distribute any unclaimed prizes subject to any written directions given under Reg 37 of the Lottery and Gaming Regulations, 1993(SA). This draw will take place on 1 June 2000. 8 The first correct entry drawn will be deemed the prize winner. 9 The judges decision will be final and no correspondence will be entered into. 10 The prize winner will be notified by either mail, e-mail or telephone, and the winner's name will be published in the April 2000 issue of Australian NetGuide (published 15 March 2000). 11 The prizes are a Shane Gould Framed Pin Set valued at \$249, an AOC Oar Framed Pin Set valued at \$199, a Limited Edition Pictogram Framed Pin Set valued at \$349 and an AOC Pennant Framed Pin Set valued at \$199. 12 This offer is not valid for use in conjunction with any other subscription promotion. 13 The promoter is Australian NetGuide Pty Ltd, Level 4, 160 York St, Sydney NSW 2000, ACN 081 280 033. 14 NSW permit TC99/11425, ACT permit ACT TP99/2204, SA permit T99/4274 & NT permit NT99/3657 issued on 23/12/99.



NET TRENDS



Digital Europeans

Internet penetration in Europe will grow from 19% to 33% by 2003 as Europeans

accelerate their integration of new technologies into everyday life. However, the popular embrace of mobile phones and the Internet will not mean that Europe can be viewed as a single market. In a new Europe Report, Forrester Research (www.forrester.com) explains how consumer attitudes will shape the technology landscape within Europe and lead to divergent digital lifestyles across the continent.

Driven by tumbling prices and the lure of the Net, PC ownership in Europe will surge over the next four years, surpassing the US in some countries. Led by a

72% penetration rate in Sweden, PC adoption across Europe will grow from 36% to more than 46% in 2003. The Internet is the killer app that will motivate most of these purchases. By 2003, Forrester expects the online population in the countries it surveyed to reach nearly 60 million — up from 33.9 million in 1999 — with more than 20 million enjoying broadband access.

Europe's online shoppers value the Web's convenience as a retail channel, with books, CDs, and computer products topping the list of most popular purchase items. However, consumers' online shopping behaviors exhibit distinct national tendencies. Germans, for example, are twice as likely to buy books online as the Dutch, while the British are twice as likely as Swedes to purchase airline tickets online. Meanwhile, the French are the least likely to use the Web for company or product information, or to buy online at all.



NET COOL



Kids First

www.kidsfirst.com.au

Come up with something creative and make a donation to help break the

cycle of child abuse and neglect in Australia.

Deer Hunter

www.planetdeerhunter.com

Blood-sport without the blood. Join a tournament

and bring home some virtual antlers to hang above the virtual fireplace.



PocketMail

www.pocketmail.com.au

Set for launch in February, PocketMail offers a low cost, PC-free way to send and receive

email. Plus, a snazzy PDAs just what you need to start a New Year.

Elf Bowling

www.nstorm.com

Didn't get what you wanted from Santa? Blame the elves.

If this didn't hit your mailbox before Christmas, download from Nstorm and bowl all year.

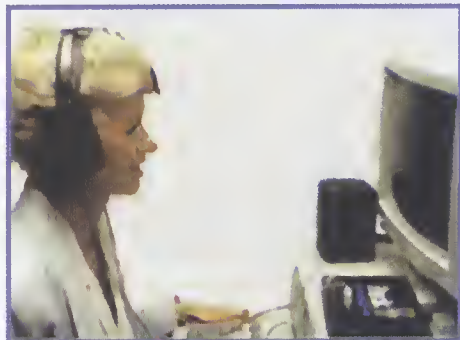




NEWSWATCH

Achieve more by plugging yourself into a PC, liberated Kiwi politics and Panama gets its canal back

>> brain to PC connection



A US Patent has been granted on software and hardware designed for the first accurate interface between the human brain and a PC. The initial application, created by Mindwaves and licensee NeuroTechnology, is a PC based brainwave biofeedback training program based on NASA and Air Force

research on peak performing pilots and the latest brain imaging studies.

The Peak Achievement Trainer (www.neurotechno.com) increases both concentration and relaxation to enable peak mental performance in employees, students, athletes and other individuals.

The trainer has been recently selected by the US Olympic Committee Training Centre to train Olympic athletes to focus their attention. CEO of NeuroTechnology Jonathan Cowan says many other sports psychologists are using the trainer to help their athletes focus better.

NeuroTechnology plans to use the brain-to-PC interface to develop video games that respond to the user's concentration by improving gameplay, measurements for focus groups, and education software that adjusts to the level of interest of the user.



Rainbow Labour for NZ

The election of the first transsexual MP barely caused a murmur in the recent NZ government election. Labour candidate Georgina Beyer, born George Bertrand, whipped her National party candidate by almost 3000

votes for the Waiararapa seat (www.ps.parliament.govt.nz/mps.htm). Beyer isn't new to politics — she was elected mayor of Carterton in 1995 and has recently published a book about her life (www.timesage.co.nz/weekly/beyerbook.html).

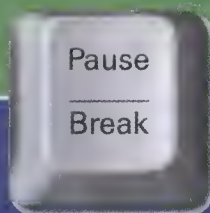
Panama Canal returned

After building and controlling the Panama Canal for almost 100 years, the United States relinquished control of the waterway to Panama (www.cnn.com/

1999/US/12/14/panama.canal.02/). The canal was completed in 1913 and some 14,000 ships pass through the canal each year. There's an extensive history of the construction and use of the canal at www.panacanal.com, including a live Web cam of traffic. The official transfer ceremonies were broadcast live from the Canal at 11am on 31 December 1999. ■



**Looking for
a restaurant
for starters and
a movie
for dessert?**



Whether it's a great meal, the best shopping or a fantastic movie, CitySearch is your definitive online guide to finding the best in your city.

www.citysearch.com.au

THE BEST SITES

www.netguide.au.com

>> 90

Point your browser to
www.netguide.au.com
and follow the link to
Top 50, where you'll
find all this month's URLs!

PAID TO SURF >>

GRAHAM MEIKLE
ALVIN STONE
JO MORRIS
DAVID MCKINNON
BRETT WINTERFORD
CATHERINE LE NEVEZ



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JAMES BOND	90
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>> 80

POLITICAL SATIRE

HOTSPOT



The Onion

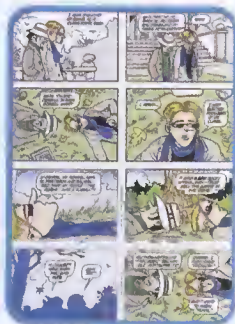
www.theonion.com

"79 Percent of Americans Missing the Point Entirely." You read it here first. This US satirical news weekly is consistently brilliant, vicious, and deadly funny — we promise you'll be hooked from your first headline, and the accompanying stories are usually just as good. The Clintons are a favourite target, but the *Onion* crew are also painfully accurate on topics like computers ("Evil Genius Gates Drops Windows 98 into Water Supply") and consumerism ("New Crispy Snack Cracker to Ease Crushing Pain of Modern Life"). Content is updated every Wednesday, with an extensive news archive to keep you going between issues.

Doonesbury

www.doonesbury.com

Almost 30 years of US politics and culture — from invisible presidents, through competitive tanning, to the Club Scud bar in Kuwait City. This impeccably designed site will detain



Doonesbury fans for days. There are comprehensive character bios, a fiendish trivia quiz, an animated music video for JT's latest song, and creator Garry Trudeau's FAQs. Best of all, there's a searchable archive of more than 10,000 episodes of the strip.



gwbush.com

www.gwbush.com/oindex.htm

This merciless assault on the presidential run of Texas Governor George Bush Jr has pro-

voked considerable controversy in the US. Questioned about the site in a televised press conference, Bush snapped "there ought to be limits to freedom." You can see why he might be unhappy about it — declaring itself his "official Web site," it bears the slogan "Hypocrisy With Bravado" and the guarantee "Drug Free Since 1974".

Pie in the Sky

www.chumba.com/_blah.htm

Are you sick of sound bite culture? Had your fill of



THE BEST SITES

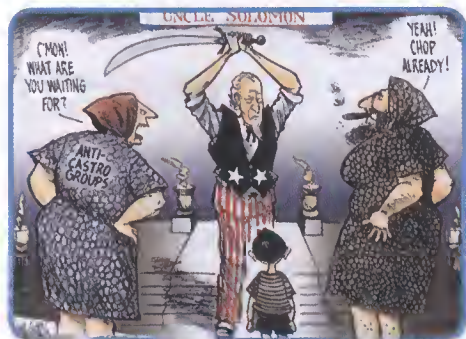
www.netguide.au.com

telegenic, point-scoring politicians? Take the political process back to basics and discover the art of flinging pies at the great and the good. While there's no mention of Kim Beazley's recent splattering, this site offers a thorough overview of the direct-action-through-desert tradition, with detailed accounts of the pieing of the head of the World Trade Organisation (lemon); the Mayor of San Francisco (tofu creme, mixed berry, pumpkin); and of course Bill Gates (cream).

Political Cartoons

www.politicalcartoons.com

A one-stop shop for caricature, parody and satire from newspapers around the world. There's a heavy



US emphasis, but also daily contributions from as far afield as Bulgaria, Singapore and Ireland. You can search for cartoons by topic, as well as artist's name, and there's a section of suggestions for teachers on using the cartoons in the classroom.

Private Eye

www.private-eye.co.uk

After decades of assaulting British institutions, *Private Eye* has turned into one. While the content may be a bit Brit-specific, the cover alone of each issue is

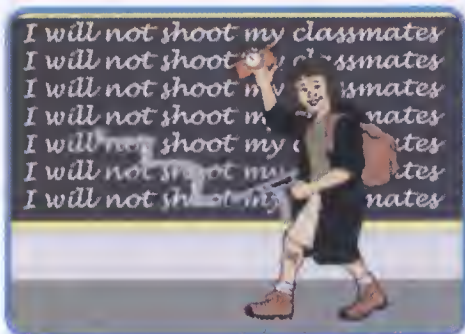


usually worth a visit. The online content includes Lord Gnome's vicious editorials, readers' contributions, bizarre news items from around the world, and the unmissable "Pseuds Corner."

SourGrapes.org

www.sourgrapes.org

Regular and riveting, SourGrapes is dotted with sarcastic and cynical recounts of political news. There's even some e-commerce on the site — Monica Lewinsky cigars and Starr Report toilet paper are up for grabs alongside former US president masks. This week in history should not be missed. Amongst kosher "factoids" are some real gems — "1955... Rosa Parks refused to give up her bus seat to a white man. The next week she retaliated and let him sit next to her while she farted incessantly."



TENNIS

HOTSPOT



Tennis Magazine Online

www.tennis.com

With a name like tennis.com, you'd expect this site to be a definitive guide to all things tennis — and it delivers. This comprehensive magazine is updated monthly and covers both professional and recreational tennis. Among the extensive resources are news and articles on the ATP and WTA tours, grand slams and other major tournaments, universal player rankings, and photo galleries. For players, Tennis.com provides equipment reviews, instructional and fitness articles, and profiles of international tennis camps and resorts, as well as an online Pro Shop. Serving up more online tennis action is the Tennis Server (www.tennisserver.com), which is full of bits and pieces such as the rules of the game — great for beginners or as a quick refresher.

The ATP tour official site

www.atptour.com

The scope of the ATP tour's official site is something to behold. Apart from the usual (news, rankings, tour dates etc) there's links to official and fan Web sites — from Agassi and Becker to Rafter and Sampras; a playground, with polls, competitions and cybercards; and the VIP lounge — a restricted, but free lounge with a 'track your star' section (track your favourite star with one click!) and a chat, forum, newsletter and the ATP site's own agony aunt of tennis, Dear Marge. Plus, centre court takes you right to the heart of the latest tour action.



ESPN.com — Tennis

espn.go.com/tennis/

The tennis centre of American broadcaster ESPN is a tennis Mecca. You want live radio and TV feeds? They're here. Video and audio highlights? Here. Headline news, features and columns, a newswire service? Here, here, here. And, of course, an online community featuring audio chat and message boards; fantasy games, a question-and-answer service, contests, a magazine, and sporting and career histories, as well as equally extensive sections for a range of popular US and international sports. If it happened in professional tennis, you'll find it on ESPN.



Tennis Australia

www.tennisaustralia.com.au

Anything you ever wanted to know about Austral-



ian tennis is covered on this site. With specialised sections covering administration, club development, coaching news, junior information, publications, resources, sponsors, tennis in schools, and veterans, the site also features a discussion group and free general, industry and David Cup newsletters. The latest tennis news from around the globe is provided by AAP in a searchable format. If it's information on the Australian Open you're after, don't forget to check out the Australian Open site (www.ausopen.org), with all the highlights of this year's tournament and ticket info for 2000.

Tennis Country

www.tenniscountry.com

"Welcome to Tennis Country", this 'total tennis' site's homepage greets you. And tennis country it is, its territory spanning tennis news and results live off the wires, chat sections, a fully stocked store, a worldwide resort and tennis camp directory, player bios, trivia quizzes, gossip and more. You can travel through Tennis Country as a guest, or sign up for free membership. There are members in over 50 countries. Plus there's the chance to win prizes as well as participate in the tennis partner matching service. Another Internet tennis community worth a visit is Tennis Worldwide (www.tennisw.com), home to a tennis-dedicated chat room — a great place for fans and players to chat about the game.



Tennis Corner

www.tenniscorner.com

Stats, stats and more stats. ATP, WTA and grand slam calendars; tour commitments, singles rankings, doubles rankings, money leaders, a rankings points table... Tennis Corner has them. The site is updated regularly and also keeps archives from recent years. Includes a grand slam champions page, and lists of men's and women's singles winners. Great reading for tennis fans everywhere.

Another handy little site is Advantage Tennis (www.advantage-tennis.com/links.htm). To save you having to maintain your own bookmarks, simply bookmark this page and all the tennis stats, results, and everything else tennis-related, is automatically updated for you.

The All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club (Wimbledon)

www.wimbledon.org

This magnificent site is to online tennis what Wimbledon is to the sport — a jewel in the crown. On this championship site are such treasures as a video vault of classic matches (this was the first major sporting event to produce a dedicated, live switched feed exclusively for the Web by combining live audio feeds with match action from the courts), full coverage of the 1999 Championship as well as advance ticket information for 2000 and an online shop. For die-hard fans, there are free Wimbledon screensavers and wallpaper to download.

HOTSPOT



The Stereogram Page

stereogram.i-us.com

If you are one of those people who stare at strange patterns on walls and fail to see blobby dinosaurs and other strange 3D creations appear, this page may tell you why. The stereogram page is not just full of speckled patterns revealing 3D creations, it also offers you the chance to make your own stereograms. Download a freeware program and in no time you will have people staring at walls and computer screens for hours trying to see your creations. You can even see these things on your computer screen, though it's damn hard on the eyes and you might have to draw a dot on the wall to get the focus right. If you're a stereogram freak drop by Yahoo's list at ca.yahoo.com/arts/visual_arts/computer_generated/3_d_art/images/stereograms/.



Activeworlds

www.activeworlds.com

King of the VRML worlds is the chat civilisation of Active Worlds. Once you have downloaded the software you have access to a host of 3D universes. Here you can take on different forms and move around worlds chatting with people, shopping and even building your own forest, house, castle or whatever structure takes your fancy in the unlimited realms of cyberspace. For a small amount of cash you can construct your own world. Award winning worlds include a magnificent Lord of the Rings planet replete with dwarves, and elves both above and below the rolling hills. Alternatively visit the slightly more real universe of Yellowstone Park (apologies to the Middle Earth-based Tolkien fans out there).

3D Unlimited

www.3d-unlimited.com

When you tout yourself as the all-round 3D Gaming site, that's a lot to live up to, but 3D Unlimited comes through with flying colours. Not content with merely reviewing games, the crew of 3D game experts examine the hardware, software and set-up easy-to-find links to the leading 3D game makers. Fans of the evolving Ultima series will get a real kick out of the impressive article about the development of plot and the grand finale, Ultima Ascension. Apparently this will be Ultima creator, Richard Garriott's last single player game.

NASA Centre for Bioinformatics

biocomp.arc.nasa.gov

This site guarantees to hurt your computer. Even with a highspeed link it aches, though that could have just been a bad day in cyberspace. NASA has been researching virtual surgery to help astronauts conduct



medical operations in space. Here you will precisely saw a patient's mandible, or watch different organs in the body functioning. Stop at the beating heart and the disembodied body parts pulsating in black space. Alternatively try the fly-by over Mars and land a spacecraft among the Olympian peaks. Just be prepared to wait a while to add plugins and download big files.

Animation Heaven & Hell

www.awn.com/heaven_and_hell/

Forget Tim Burton's *Nightmare Before Christmas*, stop motion freaks will love this collection of the little known and bizarre animations. Check out Gumby's animator, Art Clokey's cotton candy version of David and Goliath. Alternatively the inventor of stop motion animation Ladislav Starevich and his darker world, where storks eat screaming frogs may appeal. Though when it comes to dark and twisted tales Jan Svankmajer's Alice and other mixed media, the efforts are grimy and mighty twisted efforts — sure to please. This unusual old fashioned 3D world is a fascinating place to pause.

The 3D Shop

www.3dshop.com

This deceptively simple site has hundreds of computer created images. The image of the month is always good value. It was some flying god-like figure called To The Heavens when I last dropped by, made by some fellow in Scotland. You just can't keep those Scots away from the spirits. Add to that space-trains, dragons, deviant cyber mutants and you have a pretty sharp collection of images if you look carefully enough. Click into those tiny links at the top of the page or on the artists tab and you will find literally hundreds of original 3D artworks from all around the world to gob-smack you delightfully. A simple form allows 3D creative types to add their own image to the list.



3D Movie Maker

www.compumart.ab.ca/remi/3dmm/frame.html

Here you can download a lite version of 3D Movie Maker and make your own 3D movies. Better still there is an enormous collection of other stuff here. Drive down ghostly highways, learn how to make a gunshot wounds and viscera look real by using cylinders instead of spheres, or even fly through space. Do whatever you want in 3D and then post your piece of invention to join others in this large gallery space.

Regularly updated and with a good links page, this is a perfect stop for beginners who would like to try their hand at computer animation.



MY FUNNY VALENTINE

HOTSPOT

Lovingyou.com
valentine's day

Sunday December 12, 1999
1 online (last online 11:00:27)

* In The Guide *

quick links

- X Gift Shop
- X Romance Fun
- O Miscellaneous
- X Love, Sex
- X Love, Romance
- X Love, Romance
- X Romance &
- X Romance

for your love

- X Love, Romance
- X Love, Romance
- X Love, Romance
- X Love, Romance
- X Love, Romance
- X Love, Romance

Gift Shop

What you want! Gift Shop has great romance gifts for your loved ones! Valentine's Day delivery makes it a great choice!

Romance Fun

Let the fun begin! The holiday will bring the love, romance, and romance!

Miscellaneous

Get the most for romance with your gift. Get the most for romance with your gift.

Love, Sex

Remember to get the most for romance with your gift. Get the most for romance with your gift.

Love, Romance

Let the fun begin! The holiday will bring the love, romance, and romance!

Love, Romance

Remember to get the most for romance with your gift. Get the most for romance with your gift.

Love, Romance

Let the fun begin! The holiday will bring the love, romance, and romance!

Love, Romance

Remember to get the most for romance with your gift. Get the most for romance with your gift.

our gift shop

What you want! Gift Shop has great romance gifts for your loved ones! Valentine's Day delivery makes it a great choice!

our gift shop

Let the fun begin! The holiday will bring the love, romance, and romance!

our gift shop

Remember to get the most for romance with your gift. Get the most for romance with your gift.

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Anne Clancy

www.aclancy.mtx.net

Spending Valentine's alone this year? Then cuddle up with a good romance novel, set in outback Australia. Anne Clancy's historical romances will have your eyes brimming and your heart throbbing. If it's all



too close to home, try the traditional trashy romance novels from Harlequin (www.romance.net).

Cupid's Cove

www.usacitylink.com/cupid/



This site has the right idea about the required effort for Valentine's. Don't blow the budget on fancy dinners – buy some cupcakes

(muffins?) and ice them and decorate them yourself. They've a few tips, the best includes eating as much of the mix, icing and decorations as you can. Lonely hearts should hit the Internet kissing booth. Download a wav file of that special smooching sound. Ahhh....

Love Stories

www.lovestories.com

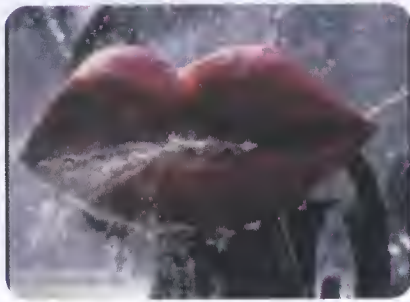
Think your relationship is great or awful, check out some of the tales on this site. Love stories, breakup stories, first



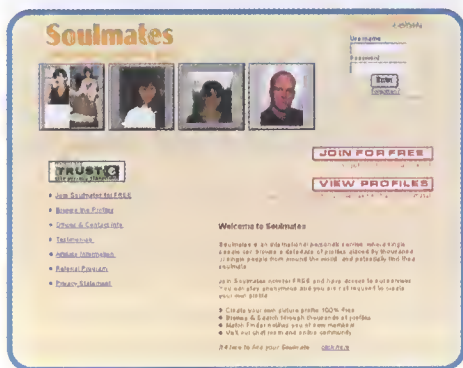
Loving You.com's Valentine's Day Guide

holidays.lovingyou.com/february/index.shtml

Boys, this should be your first stop in your build up to Valentine's Day. There are tips for the week before, the night before and the big day itself. There are plenty of gift ideas and check out the interlude's section for some ideas to make your day sizzle. If you're after something a little more low key try learning to say "I love you" in a dozen different languages at www.dina.kvl.dk/~fischer/alt.romance/language.html.



dates and diary entries. Check your love horoscope and find out if you and your partner are astrologically suited. If you're in need of some sizzling love poetry check out some of the originals on the site or submit your own.



↑ SoulMates

www.soulmates.com.au

Looking for that special person? Browse the profiles at SoulMates and if you find someone you like, send them an email message. There are plenty of match-making services online. If no-one tickles you at SoulMates try www.rsvp.com.au, www.twoscompany.com.au or www.funtasticfriendships.com.au. Try searching for a "honey" from further afield at www.honeywhereareyou.com.

Home Arts Valentines Day Special

homearts.com/depts/toc/ooval.ec1.htm

Some inspiring and not-so-inspiring tales of romance. Home Arts has advice on how to know if your partner is the one, and how to avoid Valentine's dis-



asters. Is your partner the spite type? Did his or her parents withhold desert or other potentially joyous moments? These are the signs of the one who will dump you at the most inappropriate moment – Christmas, your birthday or (heaven forbid) Valentine's Day. Check out the top 10 questions – you may get some reassuring tips.

Romance 101

www.rom101.com

There's a tonne of information here for the romantically inclined, and the rest of us. Try out the pick-up-line generator. Note the disclaimer: "The following pick-up lines are meant only for humor. Use them at your own risk as they may lead to a hand coming in contact with your face. Also please be aware that some lines can be quite vulgar and tasteless." No kidding!



HOTSPOT



Seven Wonders of the Ancient World

ce.eng.usf.edu/pharos/wonders/

Ever wondered about the Seven Wonders of the World? This site includes information on the forgotten, modern and natural wonders of our world. The final list of seven was compiled during the middle ages and was made up of the seven most impressive monuments of the ancient world, though many of these have not survived. The standard list of the original Seven Wonders of the World dating from the 6th Century is the pyramids of Egypt, the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, the statue of Zeus at Olympia, the Mausoleum at Halicarnassus, the temple of Artemis (Diana) at Ephesus, the Colossus of Rhodes, and the Pharos (lighthouse) of Alexandria.



↑ Museum of Unnatural Mystery

unmuseum.mus.pa.us/wonders.htm

The introduction to this creative site reads "Welcome to the Museum of Unnatural Mystery, a slightly bizarre, cyberspace, science museum for all ages. Are there really flying saucers? What killed the dinosaurs? Is there something ancient and alive in Loch Ness?" The Seven Wonders of the World is one of the Museum's special tours. Highlights are the opportunity to view 3D images and plans of some of the structures, including the chain pump system in The Hanging Gardens of Babylon, and a cross-section illustration of the Great Pyramid showing the passageways.

Travelling the Wonders of the World

www.worldwander.com

For those interested visiting the Wonders in person, this site is worth a look. Here you'll find personal travel experiences of Karen and Scooter. You



can go to their world wanderers travelogue, see their photos, read their diary of experiences. Their site is an inspiration to travellers and leaves visitors wondering just where this couple haven't been.



Natural Wonders Of The World

www.scrtec.org/track/tracks/foo748.html

This site is all about the Natural wonders of the world—the Grand Canyon, Volcanoes, Victoria Falls, Great Barrier Reef, and Mount Everest are just a few. It provides some useful links, detailed information, and numerous photographs and graphics. It's not all pretty pictures and good news—the Himalayas have been labelled the highest junkyard in the world—not so natural, but a wonder all the same.

All Wonders

www.allwonders.com

Features some of the greatest natural, architectural and real (human) wonders of the world. The Real Wonders section has some good biographical information on well known Human Wonders, such as Mozart, Joan of Arc, Einstein, and Nelson Mandela. People are categorised geographically—smile when you find Sir Edmund Hillary listed under Australia.

Wonders of the Ancient, Modern and Future World

www.globalnets.com/wonders/open.htm

Check out the wonders of the future at this visionary Web site. It's the quirky fantasy view of the future world's seven wonders that makes this site stand out. The predictions future world wonders include a colony on Mars, a global atmospheric shield, and a Rings of Saturn hotel and resort. "Five years ago if you wished to spend a weekend at an outerspace resort, it would have cost an arm and a leg (or a close facsimile thereof). Today it is priced affordably so that every family can enjoy the thrill of rest and relaxation."

Compton's Encyclopedia Online

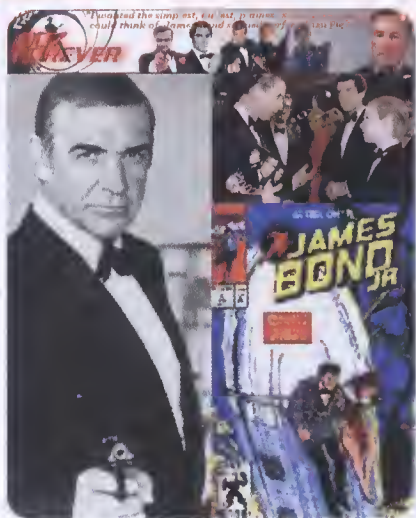
www.optonline.com/comptons/ceo/04322_A.html

Did you know that of the original Ancient Seven Wonders of the World, the only one remaining in its entirety is the Great Pyramids of Egypt? For an authoritative summary on the Seven Wonders of the World, visit Compton's Encyclopedia online. Within the articles on the site you'll find referral links to sites that may be useful.



JAMES BOND

HOTSPOT



007 Forever

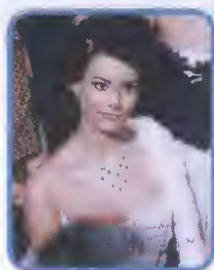
www.007forever.com

007 Forever must rate as the most comprehensive James Bond site on the Web, and there are hundreds dedicated to Ian Fleming's famous secret agent. It's not the most beautiful site, but it contains tonnes of intelligence vital to any 007 fan. While most sites are dedicated to the Bond movies, 007 Forever has pages for those of a more literary persuasion, including reviews of the original Fleming novels and those written after Fleming's death in 1964. 007 Forever also has dossiers on James Bond comics and music as well as links to some of the many, many Bond fan sites. Add to that a list of Bond bloopers in both the movies and the books — including a scar which moves from one side of Bond's face to the other — and you have a site which will keep you online for hours.

Mr. Kiss Kiss Bang Bang!

www.ianfleming.org

Mr. Kiss Kiss Bang Bang!, the Web magazine of the Ian Fleming Foundation takes the prize for best Bond news service. With an intelligence-gathering operation to rival Her Majesty's Secret Service, this site provides all kinds of Bond information, updated on a daily basis. If you want to know what Roger Moore has been up to lately, or check out the latest posters for the new Bond film, this is the place to go.



The Elliot James Bond Autograph Page

www.wp.cc.nc.us/~mde/BOND/

~mde/BOND/

The Elliot James Bond Autograph Page is the site of Bond fan and autograph collector Mike Elliot. A gold

mine for autograph or Bond memorabilia collectors, the site is basically a list of the names and addresses of almost everyone who has appeared in, sang for or worked on a James Bond movie. Elliot collects autographs by sending a photo and a nice note to a star asking them to send back the autographed photo. Elliot has photos from five Bond stars to show that his method works. With celebrity stalkers making headlines recently, this is not the kind of information which should get into the wrong hands, but Elliot says it's provided purely for autograph collectors. "I would hate it if a celebrity stops signing because of someone stupid. This includes no vulgar letters and no stalking." So don't do it.

Bond 19

www.jamesbond.com

The official site of the 19th Bond movie, *The World is Not Enough*, is the pick of the official James Bond web sites run by MGM/UA. The Official James Bond Page, www.mgmua.com/bond/home.html has little information or action and doesn't appear to have been updated since 1998. *The World is Not Enough*, however, is a super-slick Shockwave-enabled site, which has news from the set of the movie as well as release information, official press releases and QuickTime interviews with Bond himself (Pierce Brosnan) among others. The site for the previous Bond film, *Tomorrow Never Dies*, is still operational at www.tomorrowneverdies.com and it includes a link to the site of the new *Tomorrow Never Dies* PlayStation game, due out in November.

Lazenby Land

www.angelfire.com/nm/lazenbyland/

We wouldn't be patriotic if we didn't include this site, dedicated to Australia's own James Bond, George Lazenby. Lazenby regularly comes last in the "Who's the best Bond?" polls which seem to be on nearly every Bond fan site, but this site is dedicated to an appreciation of Lazenby and all his works. Take the 30th Anniversary guided tour to relive all of George's best Bond moments at the locations for the 1969's Bond



movie *On Her Majesty's Secret Service*. The site also has a link to the site of Lazenby's home town, Goulburn, NSW.



Nuv's 007 Shrine

www.nuvs.com/jbond/

Maybe the most interesting thing about this site

is that if you go to www.nuvs.com you get a choice of links: to the 007 Shrine; to *Secret Intelligence*, a spy entertainment ezine; to spyguise.com, "the Web's biggest spy memorabilia store". Fair enough. Strangely, you can also pop in to the Ghandi Virtual Ashram, dedicated to the life and teachings of Mahatma Ghandi! Maybe I missed something, but I never would have thought Ghandi and Bond would go together in anyone's mind (or Web site for that matter). Although it hasn't been updated for some time, the 007 Shrine itself is a thoughtful consideration of Bond and his works.

The Commanders Club of San Francisco

www.commanders.com



According to its creators, the Commanders Club and its site exist to provide information to people who want to "savour the lifestyle" of Bond. The Commanders obviously have the means to do this and you can follow along. Enjoy their photo tour of Ian Fleming's Jamaica, including a stop off at Goldeneye, the holiday house where Fleming wrote the Bond novels. They also provide "field intelligence" "helpful in executing a lifestyle not unlike that of 007". The Commanders' personal anecdotes, essays and memorabilia, such as personal photographs from the set of *A View To A Kill*, www.commanders.com/select/pages/cgvtak.htm, make this site a more personal Bond experience.

HOTSPOT



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yourmail.com

yourmail.com

Get paid to use CJB.NET! Click here for details.

Is your web site address too long and difficult to remember? Are you looking for a solution, but can't afford your own domain? CJB.NET provides free URL redirection services which allow you to redirect an easy-to-remember username@cj.net address to your web site. No matter where it's hosted, CJB.NET offers the following features:

- **No advertisements.** Unlike most other redirection services which place an annoying popup advertisement on your website or require a banner or button on your site, CJB.NET has no popups and requires no advertising on your site. With our new ad program, we will even **pay you** to advertise on your site. Click here to learn more.
- **Subdomain address.** Some services offer redirection using a folder under their domain, but with CJB.NET you get your very own username@cj.net subdomain address.
- **Path forwarding.** With path forwarding, you can link to images, files, and subdomains on your site through your CJB.NET address.
- **URL cloaking.** URL cloaking hides your CJB.NET address in the address bar of your browser when your web site is accessed through its CJB.NET address. People bookmarking your site will bookmark your CJB.NET address, and search engines will index your site using your CJB.NET address. Inward and outbound meta tags can also be used with the URL cloaking option.
- **Mail forwarding.** With mail forwarding, people can send e-mail to you at any address in your CJB.NET subdomain, and their message will be automatically forwarded to the e-mail address that is listed in our database for your account.
- **Mail aliases.** Along with our mail forwarding feature, CJB.NET also offers the ability to forward up to 100 different alias@username.cjb.net mail aliases to their own unique e-mail addresses. With this feature, you can assign staff friends or anyone their own unique e-mail address under your subdomain.
- **Web mail.** Each URL redirection account includes a free corresponding web mail account that, once activated, allows you to receive and respond to mail sent to any address in your CJB.NET subdomain using our web-based interface.

CJB URL Redirection

www.cjb.net

Is your Web site address too long? Need a free alternative to registering a domain name? CJB is an address redirection service that allows users to access your site using a simpler name that "cloaks" your site's actual address. Domain redirection services, sometimes referred to as forwarding or cloaking services, act as a pointer — directing traffic to your real URL (eg. **www.username.cjb.net** will redirect users to **www.yourisp.com.au/members/homepages/~yourusername/**). The service includes email address (eg. **your@user name.cjb.net**) and while it doesn't have the fancy features of other email services, it can forward your mail to both a CJB Web based mailbox or an external address of your choice. CJB is a great option for forwarding and cloaking as it has proven to be fast and reliable, and unlike many services, it's free and contains no advertising.



PEJ! Domains

www.peji.com

Peji also cloaks your actual address while redirecting users to your site, but offers an additional feature — path redirection.

This means it also redirects and cloaks all the pages and directories that make up your Web site, rather than just the front page. There are no annoying pop-up advertisements or banners at Peji, but it is financed by a "button-image" advertisement of their sponsor, which appears in the bottom right-hand corner of your site, as well as a text link at the bottom of the page. Peji also partners several search engines so if your site is forwarded by Peji, it will be easier to find.

Xtreme Resource Services Network

xrs.net

Like CJB, XRS allows you to have a sub-domain that forwards to your Web site free of charge and without any advertisements. Unlike CJB, XRS isn't afraid to admit its site and email cloaking services are perfect for the unsavoury element of cyberspace that participates in spamming (unsolicited junk email). This means unsuspecting email users have no idea where the mail is being directed from (or how to redirect all that spam back into the sender's accounts). What's the catch? Individuals and companies signing up to XRS are encouraged to refer oth-

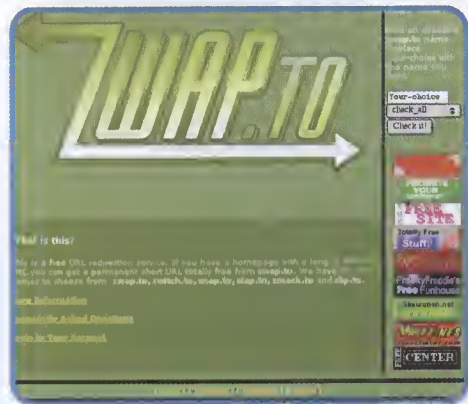


ers to the service, either through word-of-mouth or by linking to the XRS site, which does contain ads.

HTTP2

www.http2.com

This system incorporates the basic elements of other forwarding services, but it doesn't cloak your URL and won't work in Microsoft Internet Explorer unless a plug-in is downloaded from the site. Instead of the usual **http://** prefix to a domain name HTTP2 users have at **http2//** prefix. Reviews indicate that despite its limited features, http2 users are generally impressed with its service. The http2 forwarding is free, but you are forced to accommodate their banner advertising on your site.



↑ ZWAPTO

www.zwap.to

This service forwards and cloaks using several alternative domain names — **zwap.to/yourusername**, **zwitch.to/yourusername**, **znapto/yourusername**, **zlap.to/yourusername**, **zmatch.to/yourusername**, or **zlip.to/yourusername**. They're pretty kooky, but

shorter than most free domain names. Again this forwarding service is free and there are no advertisements plaguing your page at present, but its creators admit that they may be added at a later date.

Vdirect Redirect

www.vdirect.com

Vdirect is a forwarding service that includes free Webmail and cloaking. Like http2, it is financed by banner advertisements, which appear on your site. There is an option to remove these ads if you pay a \$15 per year registration fee. An additional feature of the Vdirect service is its provision of free history reports, which provides a basic record of your sites traffic in an on-line graph.



XTP Network Information Centre

www.xttp.com

XTP provides your site with an actual domain name, which achieves much the same as other redirection services. Like HTTP2, these free domain names don't have the usual prefix of **http://**, but as the name of the service would suggest, they use **xttp://**. This means your site would look something like **xttp://www.username.com**. Whether this is such a good idea is a little dubious — it's fairly ingrained in most Internet user's minds that all addresses start with **http://** - in fact, browsers take this as a given. Nevertheless, it is still a much simpler alternative to a long domain name or paying for a shorter one. The **xttp://** prefix is supported by Netscape Navigator, but you'll need a plug-in to access your site with Microsoft Internet Explorer.



SITE OF THE MONTH



Cricket Info

www-aus.cricket.org

Cricket fans should be very familiar with this site — it's an essential resource during the cricket season. Live Web casts and commentaries of games have kept many a fan at work over the summer months — checking into the site to catch scores and watch a few wickets.

If you're following a specific team you can link to pages with that team's latest scores and details of upcoming games. The Australian page is comprehensive and even has links to the Web sites of various state teams. Bookmark this spot for the Australia tour of South Africa in April. ■

HOME GROWN NEW Australian sites (send details to louise@netguide.au.com)

eCampus (eCampus.com.au) A complete online guide to all aspects of Australian university life covering Academic resources, advice columns, entertainment, travel tips...

South West Australia (www.southwestaustralia.com) Planning a holiday in south west Australia? The ultimate travel guide to the region will get you started.

Nutrition Australia (www.nutritionaustralia.org) Nutrition advice for Australians — great for those combating the excesses of the holiday season.

Your Portfolio (www.yourportfolio.com.au) Looking for work or workers, you'll find all their details here.

A Real Basketcase (www.basketcase.com.au) Be nice with a gift basket from Basketcase. Ideal with Valentines Day around the corner.

Positive Ageing (www.positiveageing.com.au) The homepage of the Positive Ageing Foundation provides information on its research, education and resources.

Do Your Own (www.doyourown.com.au) Design and print your own business cards through this helpful site.

Virtual Australia (www.virtualaustralia.com.au) Every bit of information you can imagine on our fair homeland.

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NET TRAVEL

The strawberries are just beginning to ripen in Florida. Combined with some thrilling theme parks and it's the perfect way to ease into a New Year according to **Raewyn Whyte**.

> sweet wild florida



THOUGH TECHNICALLY SPEAKING, FEBRUARY is mid-winter in Florida, it's the peak of the strawberry season and the weather is summery and warm. For the first 10 days or so of the month, the strawberry harvest is celebrated at the annual Florida Strawberry Festival (www.flstrawberryfestival.com) in Plant City, providing opportunities to eat lots of ripe, luscious strawberries, lollygag amongst craft, photography and art exhibits, goggle at displays and contests, and try out 60 fairground rides.

Just 60 miles west from Plant City is the major city of Orlando (www.orlandoonline.com/main.htm), and world famous theme parks Walt Disney World (disney.go.com/DisneyWorld/index2.html) and Universal Studios (www.uescape.com), which combine



out-of-this-world movie sets, rides, interactive installations and displays. There are many water parks in the area, such as the 25 acre Wet 'n Wild (www.wetnwild.com), Sil-

ver Springs and Wild Waters (www.silver-springs.com), where you can ride glass-bottom boats beside alligators, giant snapping turtles

and waterfowl. At Sea World (www.seaworld.com) the emphasis is on marine life with dolphin and penguin encounters, shark school, and the "to the rescue" demonstration of marine animal recovery techniques with manatees, sea turtles, otters, aquatic birds and seals. The Orlando Science Center also provides hands-on activities and exhibits along with travel to other planets in the Dr. Phillips Cinedome

(www.cinedome.com).

And then there's the "Space Coast" attractions (www.spacecoast.com/attractions.html)

such as , the US Space



Walk of Fame, Astronaut Memorial Planetarium and Observatory (www.brevard.cc.fl.us/~planet/), and Kennedy Space Center (www.ksc.nasa.gov/ksc.html) where even a full day isn't enough to see everything, and you just might witness a Space Shuttle launch.

The long coastline provides recreational opportunities aplenty. You can surf atop the crashing waves of Sebastian Inlet, take a horseback or kayak safari along the pristine Atlantic beaches, hike with the raccoons and armadillos, bald eagles, manatees, peregrine falcons, gopher tortoises and marine turtles in Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge National Park, and go birdwatching at Turkey Creek sanctuary where migratory birds such as the





EXPERIENCE THE CHARM OF NATIVE FLORIDA

pileated woodpecker and rare purple martin are found during March. Surf-fishing is a popular activity because species such as bluefish, redfish and whiting come close to shore, and the surf line is often rich in collectable shells such as razor lams, lightning whelks, calico scallops, and angel wings. Jungle cruising is also offered aboard airboats in alligator infested swamps (www.jungleadventures.com) or out on the marshes where heron are found (www.airboatcotours.com).

If wildlife appeals, you can see thousands of orchids in different garden settings can at A World of Orchids in Kissimmee (www.orchidmall.com/awoo/), and more than 5000 alligators and crocodiles at Gatorland (ns.i3.net/1-800-FL-VILLA/gatorland.htm) where the entertainment includes the Gator Jumparoo Show and Man vs Gator Wrestlin. At Brevard Zoo (www.brevardzoo.org) more than 413 animals representing 109 species from around the world reside in naturalistic settings. More relaxing, perhaps, is a visit to Cocoa Beach Pier (www.cocoa.beachpier.com), which juts 840 feet out into the Atlantic Ocean, there are seafood restaurants with panoramic ocean views, cocktail bars, boutique shopping, and the world famous psychedelic Ron Jon Surf Shop, complete with sand, surf and indoor waterfalls. ■

> more to see

Absolutely Florida
www.funandsun.com

Strawberry recipes
www.flstrawberryfestival.com/recipes.htm

Insiders Guide to Disney World
www.mydisney.com

Downtown Orlando
www.downtownorlando.com

Orlando Travel Guide
www.citytravelguide.com/orlando.htm

Canaveral National Seashore & Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge
www.gorp.com/gorp/resource/us_ns/fl_cape.htm

Tips from Florida locals
www.angelfire.com/fl/lonelyflorida/

Blue Ridge Balloon Rides
www.blueridgeballoons.com

Ripley's Believe it or Not
www.i3.net/1-800-FL-VILLA/ripleys/

Florida Surf reports and Surf Cams
www.eastcoastsurfing.com

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liveconcerts on the Net



JANUARY 22: Counting Crows set the house on fire with their new album *This Desert Life*. (www.hob.com/live/)



JANUARY 23: Lenny Kravitz makes noise with ChannelV. Listen to the live audio stream at www.channelv.com



JANUARY 26: Australia Day special Webcase from the Basement, Sydney. (www.basement.com.au)



JANUARY 27: Loads of energy from Sonia Dada in Los Angeles. (www.hob.com/live/)

19 JANUARY: Chat with Kevin Rushby, author of *Chasing the Mountain of Light*, about the world's largest diamond, the Koh-I-Noor or "Mountain of Light". Learn the stories behind this mysterious gem (which is said to continue to control the fate of the Windsor family). (chat.yahoo.com)

20 JANUARY, 11AM: Breakbeat Era. Funked out, drum n' bass grooves provided by Bristol based singer/songwriter Leonie Laws, DJ Die and acclaimed electronic producer Roni Size. (www.hob.com/live/)

21 JANUARY, 11AM: Yes in video. (www.hob.com/live/)

22 JANUARY, 11AM: Counting Crows in video. *August & Everything After* was a hit for this band around the world in 1994. Check out the recorded concert following the release of their new album, *This Desert Life*. (www.hob.com/live/)

22 JANUARY, 8.30PM: M People — One Night in Heaven (www.channelv.com.au)

23 JANUARY, 11AM: Joe 90. Originally called God's Child, this foursome was a hit in 1994 with their debut album *Everybody*. (www.hob.com/live/)

23 JANUARY, 7.30PM: Lenny Kravitz (www.channelv.com.au)

24 JANUARY, 11AM: Incognito. Leaders in modern day acid jazz. (www.hob.com/live/)

25 JANUARY, 11AM: NRBQ. NRBQ (New Rhythm & Blues Quintet) has been a leader in the pack of progressive music since 1968 when they formed in Miami. Some call them the greatest rock band in history, those that don't haven't heard of them yet. (www.hob.com/live/)

26 JANUARY: Australia Day Special one hour show from the Basement includes spectacular footage of the 1999 INXS Reunion concert (with guest vocalist Terence Trent D'Arby) at the opening of Stadium Australia, plus a fantastic collection of "All Australian" live performances from The Basement studio, featuring James Reyne, Kate Ceberano, Mark Lizotte (a.k.a Diesel), Skunkhour, Tim Freedman, Iva Davies, and Mental as Anything. (www.basement.com.au)

watchout

Daily event updates are available at www.netguide.com.au

hotmovies



Anna and the King

www.annaandtheking.com

There's nothing better than a true life love story. In Anna and the King, Jodie Foster plays British governess Anna Leonowens, who is hired by the King of Siam (Chow Yun-Fat) to educate his sixty-eight children. See the Webcast of the

Hollywood premier at **www.foxmovies.com.au/trailers/annaandtheking.asp**

The Bachelor

www.bachelormovie.com

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bachelor, one who values his freedom more than life itself. As friends fall off the shelf O'Donnell's character Jimmie finds himself tipping too.

Anywhere But Here

www.foxmovies.com/anywherebuthere/

The turmoil of mother daughter tension is portrayed in this touching movie starring Natalie Portman and Susan Sarandon. Teenager Ann is forced to move to Beverly Hills with her mother Adele in search of an exciting new world.

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available at CNN. This is one of most comprehensive international online news services.

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www.mrock.com.au

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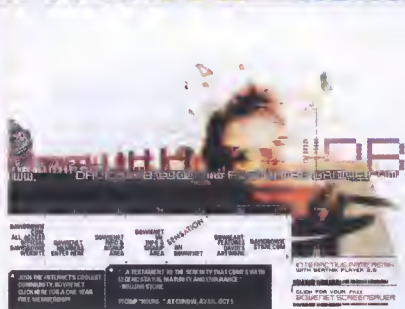
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latest MP3 News



Bowie makes history

He didn't make it down under for the millennium, but David Bowie (www.davidbowie.com) is making history. For the first time a major artist and a leading record company, Virgin, are joining with online music retailers to bring a complete album to music fans via download from the Internet. His latest album *Hours* can be

downloaded from the Net — complete with extra Net-only tracks. Released to the Web late last year, the download was available a week before the CD hit the stores.

Shout to the world

Yahoo! has launched Open Mic (digital.yahoo.com) allowing anyone who sings in the shower to open the bathroom window and broadcast to the world. It gives musicians of all levels the change to self publish and sell their own music online. Yahoo's Michael Latham says the site offers simple self-publishing tools for users to create a musical signature and distribute their

music to a global audience, much the same way the recently acquired Geocities has built a strong community of Web site self publishers.

Dime a download

This online initiative is trying to change the way corporations donate or raise money for charities. MP3.com (www.mp3.com) has introduced *Dime a Download* where well known artists contribute an exclusive track, which can be downloaded for free. For each download MP3.com will donate 10 cents to a charity of the artist's choice. First up was a new track by R&B music group TLC. (tlc.mp3.com) with the money going to the US Sickle Cell Disease Association.

Your PICK



Obscure MP3 >> NetGuide reader David Smith is a big MP3 fan and according to him Bresso's (www.bresso.com) the place to go to search for obscure MP3, check the charts and learn all you need to know about.

Sampling >> Try before you buy is the name of the game at CDNow (www.cdnw.com). Shoppers are encouraged to listen to clips from albums before they hit the "buy" button. The 30 second clips are available in Real Audio or MPEG format.

Taking a lead >> DJ Lead, originally from Iowa but now pumping his tunes in NZ (www.amp3.Net/djlead/) started with the Yamaha DJX. He has a reputation for fine dance music and likes experimenting with styles to give a broad variety of music.



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PRINCEandrew

SHAKE OUT THE IMAGE of stuffy royalty, they're actually quite a Web savvy bunch. HRH The Duke of York is quite a big fan of the Internet, especially when it comes to providing access for the disabled.

In a report in the Nando Times Prince Andrew says the Internet can open doors for people with disabilities, but often remains inaccessible to the deaf and blind. "It could be construed as a double-edged sword. The Web has the potential to unlock resources

and access to equal opportunities for the disabled, and yet there is a danger of

their being excluded from that because of the World Wide Web's success," he says.

As Patron of the British Deaf Association (www.bda.org.uk), the Royal Commonwealth Society for the Deaf, Fight For Sight and the Understanding Industry – and educational charity, which aims to improve the business skills of secondary school pupils – Andrew has a special interest in access to the Internet for youth and those with disabilities.

"Surfing the Net is not something I get much chance to do but it's quite fun when I do get a few moments." However, he does have some favourite Web sites. "I like the



BBC (www.bbc.co.uk) and Financial Times (www.financialtimes.co.uk)."

Prince Andrew is the third child of the Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh. He married Sarah Fergusson (www.royalnetwork.com/rnn/fergiebio.html) in Westminster Abbey on 23 July 1986. At the time of their marriage Prince Andrew was created The Duke of York and Sarah

became The Duchess of York.

Their first child, Beatrice, was born on 8 August 1988. Their second child, Eugenie, was born on 23 March 1990. The girls are fifth and sixth in line of succession to the throne. Prince Andrew and Sarah were separated in 1992 and divorced in

May 1996, but have maintained joint custody of their children. ■

By Bonnie Siegler / Planet Syndication



PRINCE ANDREW'slinks

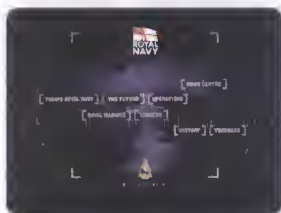
PRINCE ANDREW BIOGRAPHY

www.royal.gov.uk/family/york.htm

The full rundown on The Duke of York's life from education, sporting interests, marriage and family, official engagements and patronages.

ROYAL NAVY

www.royal-navy.mod.uk



Prince Andrew joined the Royal Navy in 1979 on a short service commission, as a Seaman Officer

specialising as a pilot. He studied at the Britannia Royal Naval College in Dartmouth, where he completed the Royal Marine 'Green Beret' course.

SMOKE TROUT SOUFFLÉ

www.expressmedia.co.uk/malcrfl/andrew.htm

He may be a navy boy, but according to this cooking site, Prince Andrew loves his food – especially this recipe.

ROYAL INSIGHT

www.royalinsight.gov.uk/current.front.html



A monthly guide to the lives and work of the British Royal family including official tours, photographs and a diary of events.

THE DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES MEMORIAL FUND

www.theworkcontinues.org

The charity works of the world's most popular Princess continue through her Memorial Fund, giving the most disadvantaged the opportunity to change their lives.

FANsites

- >> Astrology Chart www.zodiacal.com/royalty/7373.htm
- >> Unofficial British Royal Family Page www.etoile.co.uk/Royal.html
- >> Biography www.royalarchive.com/?page=royal_home&royalid=4
- >> Royal Watch www.btinternet.com/~cameron1/
- >> The Princes www.geocities.com/SouthBeach/Palms/2475/
- >> Prince of Wales www.princeofwales.gov.uk
- >> Queen Elizabeth www.zip.com.au/~rocket/queen.htm
- >> Prince Edward, Royal Wedding www.etoile.co.uk/Events/ESWedding.html
- >> The Prince Harry Realm princeharry.cjb.net



software's last (g)ASP

Why buy when you can rent? Bill Bennett looks at some emerging application server providers.

IF THE APPLICATION SERVICE

Providers (ASPs) get their way, the days of buying software and loading it onto your computer's hard drive may be numbered. Over the next three to four years, you can expect to see the arrival of Internet-hosted computer programs able to handle most of the tasks currently carried out by PC-based software.

ASP provided software is quite different from conventional software and requires a new way of

thinking. Instead of running on your computer, ASP programs run on a central Web server located somewhere on the Internet. In effect, your computer becomes a remote terminal for entering data and for viewing the results of computing done elsewhere.

Some ASPs will use your browser as the front end to their products. Others will install small programs on your computer — but these do little more than push and pull information back and forth

across the Net.

Over time ASP programs will appear to cover most of the popular PC applications. But they may not carry the same brands as the programs you current use. For example there are already Web delivered word processors and spreadsheets appearing — and they are not part of Microsoft Office.

Buck bonanza

ASPs promise a new Internet bonanza that some analysts predict

could be even more lucrative than conventional e-commerce. A report by IDC predicts that ASP services are going to grow by a massive 91% over the next few years. Because ASPs are literally selling binary information there are no physical components involved. It's the purest form of e-commerce imaginable. It has extremely important implications for every online entrepreneur.

Because ASPs offload the actual processing of data to large, centralised, remote computers, our personal computing requirements are likely to be less demanding. For example, hard disks will probably go out of favour. You might need to store some data locally, but not much. Chip-based storage can handle the relatively modest local requirements. This is far quicker, smaller and much more reliable than disks.

It's most likely that you'll use an ASP to store the bulk of your data. This will save on moving large amounts of data across the Internet. What's more, ASPs will be able to offer sophisticated back-up and data security features. If your nervous about trusting important data to a third party, you can make local back-ups.

So, if you no longer need to hold the bulk of your data on a PC, computers can be made much

smaller and, because they have no moving parts, more reliable.

Likewise, because your computer becomes, in effect, a data entry and retrieval device, you may be able to do away with conventional screens and keyboards. Consequently, the business computer of the future is going to look a lot more like a Palm Pilot and a lot less like a traditional desktop machine. In practice, most analysts believe we'll use both — for now.

Away from home

Because processing takes place on remote Web servers, there's no need for the latest processor chips and other high-end components. You can expect to see the price of a Web-connected computer to fall dramatically.

Some experts think that commercial ASPs will use a business model similar to that used by mobile phone companies. You'll be able to get a computer for next to nothing; the ASP will recover the money through software rental fees.

Businesses will find centralised applications easier to manage than supporting the same software on dozens of desktop machines — the bigger the business the bigger the cost saving. And because the applications are Web-based, people will be able to use them from

anywhere they have Internet access, including other people's computers at remote work sites.

Small and medium sized companies stand to gain from ASPs because the technology will give them access to the kind of high-end applications that generally require a sophisticated information technology infrastructure. Renting an application on a usage or throughput basis is considerably cheaper than maintaining a mainframe.

The long term ASP vision means managers will be able to process their firm's payroll from a wireless connected hand held computer while travelling to work on the train.

Some big names are lining up behind the ASP concept. For example, Microsoft lead product manager Ross Dembecki says his company is concentrating on delivering the tools to ASPs that will allow them to sell software services over the Internet.

"Up until now we've had products focused on the ISP market. In fact we've been doing this for some time. Our products allow ISPs to deliver a richer set of features and products that go beyond simple web access and email accounts. In many ways it is similar to the way telephone companies can sell extra services such as call-waiting or voice-messaging."

E-COMMERCE

ASPs will earn their money by renting their applications. So, you might get a monthly invoice that looks a little like a telephone bill itemizing the various programs and services you've used. On the other hand you might pay a flat monthly fee for unlimited access to certain services.

Advertising everywhere

An alternate business model is to use the applications as a way of delivering advertising. Indeed, some advertisers have already developed free, Web-delivered applications, as a branding exercise.

To get a feel for how this might work, take a look at the Trend Micro House Call Web site. This is a virus checking ActiveX application that loads onto a PC through a Web page (housecall.antivirus.com). While the software checks your hard disk for viruses a constant stream of advertisements are delivered to your screen.

There are some question marks over the ASP market. Above all else, for ASP to really take off we're going to need higher bandwidth networks and more reliable Internet access. It's one thing to miss accessing a few Internet sites because of network problems, it's another thing altogether if your company can't create its invoices

or access its inventory database.

Similarly, there are security issues. You need to be certain that the people managing important data aren't selling it to your rivals or using it in some other way that harms your interests. And you'd like to know that no one is snooping on your ASP activities. Eventually reliable ASP brands will emerge. At present most players are companies you've never heard of.

Some are start up companies with little experience of customer service. If you rent a mission critical application with important data, you might have difficulty accessing that data in the event of a dispute or a technical error that is beyond your control. It may also be difficult to move away if the ASP thinks it has you by the short and curls then decides to ratchet prices.

Ultimately, the ASP business

the business computer of the future
is going to look a lot more like a
Palm Pilot and a lot less like
a traditional desktop machine

Only the brave or foolish would entrust mission critical applications to an advertising supported ASP service that offers no guarantees. Of course there are always some people who will do this, but it makes sense to look for a service that can offer some kind of agreed performance levels. This might not be as cheap as you'd hope.

More worrying is that companies using ASP can become hostage to their service providers.

holds a lot of potential. It could trigger another bout of huge business growth and expansion. But the technology needs to be treated with caution. While you wouldn't want to bet your business on an untested technology, you don't want to be left behind if your rivals are reaping the benefits of a better way of working. ■

Bill Bennett can be contacted at neted@netguide.aust.com

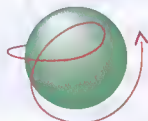
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Teva sports sandals combine the airiness of a sandal with the comfort and performance of a high-tech sports shoe. Created by ex-river guide Mark Thatcher, Tevas are now a favourite of travellers and action sports enthusiasts worldwide. If the high-tech sports look isn't for you they also come in a stylish casual range. These men's afghams sport an oiled nubuck upper and a traction rubber soul and can be yours for US\$69.95, plus postage. Just in case you're wondering — Teva means nature in Hebrew.

Oakley

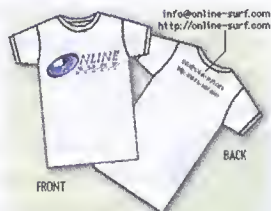
www.oakley.com

Sunglasses are the one fashion accessory you can justify spending large amounts of money on. They don't just make you look good, they also protect your eyes from those harsh ultra-violet rays. The new Oakley Zeros will perform both functions admirably. They're lightweight, sleek and come in black, cobalt, joker green or platinum. According to Oakley, the Zero's more aerodynamic sculpt maps better to cranial contours and their open edge lenses unlock your range of view. Whatever — they still look cool.



Online surf

online-surf.com



Surfwear is synonymous with summer, although the cool stuff can sometimes be hard to find for sale on the Net. Hawaiian-based Online

Surf is billing itself as the world's first online surf shop. It's early days for the site at the moment, and its creators encourage people to email them with suggestions of how to improve it. At the moment the only items for sale are a range of cotton t-shirts in white or ash. Customers can choose whether to have Online Surf's logo on the back or the front of the shirt. Clothing for the true Web surfer. Aloha.

Lifestyles Direct

www.lifestylesdirect.com

Avoid looking like a mixed grill after a day at the beach with this range of solar tan-through swimwear from Lifestyles Direct. This Mexico green multi-print is eye catching to say the least. The swimsuits come in a range of prints including Jamaica lime, floral paradise and our favourite, perfectly paisley. Net recommended for those attempting to keep a low profile. Men's swimwear, sarongs, scrunchies and other assorted beach equipment is also available at the site. ■

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NETGUIDEHELPPDESK

Vikki Bland has all the answers for NetGuide readers. Send your Internet related questions to helpdesk@netguide.aust.com.

Q. I've just started to use the Internet and I'm lost. Help!

Help is at hand. Your ISP's home page (probably the first page you see when you connect to the Internet) should contain a link to an online beginner's guide, as well as to the ISPs helpdesk. In these areas you'll find guides on email, newsgroups, creating Web pages, troubleshooting connection problems and much more. ISPs make these as comprehensive as possible, but if there is an area uncovered you should email your ISP for help.

Q. I want to create my own Web page, but don't know how to.

Many ISPs allocate some free space for their customers to create and store their own Web pages. Some also have an automatic Web page creation program that will create a simple page for you. These are some good guides to building pages on the Web. Check out www.webmonkey.com and www.xpertz.com/builder/.

Q. I am going overseas, how do I use the Internet while away?

Several ISPs have global roaming agreements with overseas networks. What this means is that if you are in another country and

there is a local ISP that is also part of this network, you can access them using your normal account. All usage charges will then be billed to your normal ISP account when you return. It's best to contact your ISPs helpdesk before departing for full instructions on making use of the global roaming programs. Alternatively, there are Internet cafes in most major cities. Set yourself up with a free Web based email account (see www.hotmail.com or www.start.com.au) before you go.

Q. My computer disconnects when I'm surfing the Web. How can I stop this?

There are many reasons why this could happen (apart from other members of your household picking up the phone). It's often due to phone line interference. There are many things that cause interference — perhaps having a phone with a phone number memory on the line. Such phones draw a small amount of voltage from the line to maintain their memory, which can cause your modem to drop its connection to the Internet. Other causes of phone line interference include electric fences and high-tension power lines. Although it's

difficult to do anything yourself to eliminate these problems, you can ask Telstra to check your line and if necessary, fit a noise suppressor. If you have call waiting, it pays to disable it for the duration of your Internet time.

Q. I have heard about security problems with some browsers. How can I protect my system?

There is no simple cure to security issues on the Internet. There are some simple things you can do to increase your security. The first thing is to choose a password that will be difficult to crack. Never choose a password that is a word (or words) from the dictionary — for example "intelligent". Passwords that contain both letters and numbers are more secure, so replace the letter "i" with the number one for added security — for example "intelligent". It's also a good idea to install anti-virus software and to check often for browser updates or news regarding security issues, as problems are usually resolved quickly.

Q. Can anyone else ready my email, either while it's being sent or while it's on my ISP's server?

Short answer? Yes! However, for most of us it's not something to lose sleep over. To intercept email you would have to have a higher-than-normal knowledge of how the Net works and how to hack into an email server. Also consider the huge number of Internet users and that fact that email is still the most popular Internet service. At any given time there are millions of email messages floating around the world. The chance of anyone intercepting any particular message is minuscule. Most ISPs have strong firewall security on their mail servers, so the likelihood of someone accessing your mail without your user name and password is fairly small.

Q. Does it matter whether you use upper or lower case letters

for email and Web addresses?

Generally you should use lower case letters (that is not CAPS-ALS). The Windows environments most of use have on our computers don't care — a file called LETTER.DOC is the same as one called letter.doc as far as your computer is concerned. However, much of the Internet is built around an operating system called Unix, which is sensitive to case. As a rule domain names (ie. **netguide.com.au**) are not case sensitive, but email user names (the bit before the @ in an email address), and path and file names (ie, everything that comes after the / at the end of the domain name in a URL) are.

When you're searching for information using on of the Web

search engines like AltaVista (**www.altavista.com**) entering key words in lower case tells the search engine to find all forms of the words (for instance, searching for bank will also find Bank and BANK). If you only search for BANK, the engine will only look for this form of the word. ●

While every care is taken with the answers, the publishers cannot be held responsible for the accuracy of the information given or any consequences arising from it.

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NET DIRECTORY

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Active Concepts	(03) 9348 2122	www.activeconcepts.com	k.butcher@activeconcepts.com.au
Adap-2-Us	(02) 9746 1492	www.atu.com.au	sales@atu.com.au
Ad MultiMedia	(02) 9509 4585	www.admm.com.au	info@admm.com.au
Australian Netlink	(03) 9690 0660	www.netlink.com.au	info@netlink.com.au
Austron	(02) 4283 8652	www.zip.com.au/~austron/	austron@zip.com.au
Avarice Interactive	(02) 9824 2750	www.avarice.com	webmaster@avarice.com
Aveweto	(02) 9349 8263	www.aveweto.com.au	design@aveweto.com.au
Armour Design	n/a	armour.iinet.net.au	marena@iinet.net.au
Artichoke Web Design	(02) 9318 1212	www.artichokedesign.com.au	mike@artichokedesign.com.au
Aurore IT Architects	0416 150 987	www.aurore.net	design@aurore.net
Balance Design Group	(02) 9983 1688	www.balance.com.au	info@balance.com.au
8G Creationz	n/a	www.eisa.net.au/~designs	designs@eisa.net.au
Brainwiz Web Design	0419 665 709	www.brainwiz.com.au	bip@brainwiz.com.au
Cartoon Internet	0413 930 546	www.bigfoot.com/~thecartoons	cartoons@ihug.com.au
Cyber Design	(02) 9997 3134	www.cyber-design.com	info@cyber-design.com
Dark Horizon	(02) 9699 9000	www.darkhorizon.com.au	info@darkhorizon.com.au
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Designer Web Pages	(03) 9462 9152	www.des-web.com.au	info@des-web.com.au
Devil Website Development	(02) 8850 3693	www.devilweb.com.au	ktully@devilweb.com.au
DHS Network	(03) 9376 6808	www.dhsnetwork.com	design@dhsnetwork.com
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HC Web Design	(07) 3357 4557	www.hc-web.com	info@hcweb.com
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Hypernet Web Solutions	0416 304 066	www.david.cavanagh.net	david@cavanagh.net
Intellinet Business Solutions	(02) 4998 3426	www.intellinet.com.au	chris@intellinet.com.au
Internet Design Studios	(02) 9518 5755	www.idstudios.com.au	create@idstudios.com.au
iNet Access	0414 862 402	www.skybusiness.com/netaccess	freedomzoo@hotmail.com
i-spyder internet working	0411 403 500	www.i-spyder.com.au	spyder@i-spyder.com.au
JD Computer Consulting	0414 558 042	www.jdcc.com.au	info@jdcc.com.au
Laughin Lizard	0413 499 046	www.laughinlizard.com.au	info@laughinlizard.com.au
Lightning Webs	(08) 9359 4111	www.lightningwebs.com.au	info@lightningwebs.com.au
Lilfish Multimedia	(02) 9954 6076	www.lilfish.com.au	lilfish@bigpond.com.au
KD Web Design	(02) 9675 3359	www.kdwebdesign.com.au	info@kdwebdesign.com.au
KwikLink Network	(03) 5831 3454	www.kwiklink.com.au	info@kwiklink.com.au
Laughin Lizard Design	n/a	www.accessnt.com.au/~laughinlizard	laughinlizard@accessnt.com.au
Liquid Web	(02) 9487 6868	www.liquidweb.com.au	sales@liquidweb.com.au
Little Black Duck Design	(02) 4942 4049	www.littleblackduck.com.au	info@littleblackduck.com.au
Lush Web Creations	(03) 9421 8999	www.lushweb.com.au	brent@lushweb.com.au
MacAdelaide	(08) 8394 2458	www.members.tripod.com/macadelaide	macadelaide@hotmail.com
Massive Interactive	(02) 9331 8400	www.massive.com.au	info@massive.com.au
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Netplus Internet marketing	(07) 5530 8883	www.netplus.net.au	mail@netplus.net.au
Netspring Design	(02) 4754 4255	www.netspring.com.au	design@netspring.com.au
Netwide Solutions Pty Ltd	(03) 9897 1121	www.netwide.com.au	info@netwide.com.au
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Dnline Genesis	0411 548 914	onlinegenesis.cjb.net	info@onlinegenesis.cjb.net
DzWeb Internet Marketing	(02) 9758 7323	www.ozweb.net.au	info@ozweb.net.au
Phillip Greentree & Assoc.	(02) 4947 12 02	www.greentree.com.au	philip@greentree.com.au
Premium	(03) 9376 6808	www.ballarat.net.au/premiumdesigns	premium@netconnect.com.au
Pretzel Logic Pty Ltd	(08) 9127 0711	www.pretzel.com.au	logic@pretzel.com.au
Quoin Technology	(02) 9199 4787	www.quin.com.au	info@quin.com.au
Redback	(02) 9874 8331	www.redback.com.au	sales@redback.com.au
Streetwise Interactive Design	(08) 9493 1097	www.swid.com.au	jason@swid.com.au
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continued from overleaf →

over, read the authors biography and an intro, and, if lucky, get through most of the first chapter before security pressures me toward check out. In the CD store I can look at the cover, read the track listings, and most stores provide stereos and headphones for a quick listen.

Now that we're finally scaling the "security" hump for online shopping we're facing a brand new speed hump — content. Very little of what we do in the physical shop is impossible online — proof of this can be found at Amazon and CDNow.

I witnessed the birth of a number of new Australian e-tailers in the lead up to Christmas. They gushed at media conferences that they had "x" number of products available in their store and could ship Australia and worldwide. They were now part of the new global economy — cue applause.

I asked some of them what would happen if they didn't have the product their customer wanted.

"We can order it for them," was the common response.

"I don't mean to appear rude, but ..."

I seem to remember some promises were once made about the joys of online shopping. For years we've been hearing about these fabulous online

superstores where you can buy anything, from anywhere in the world, anytime and have it in your hands within a week. Australian retailers would compete head on with international stores and win. Why? Because we like to buy Australian products, we like a guarantee and we like that national delivery times whip even the fastest Fedex courier.

Yeah, but what if you don't stock the product? The continued lure of Amazon and CDNow isn't as much to do with branding, as it is to do with service. They're not just providing a searchable database to the masses; they're providing advice and personalised advice at that.

Amazon knows my name — they know what I've bought, what I've searched for and every time I search for something new I get advice on other things I'd like. CDNow knows that music shopping is sometimes experimental — often I don't quite catch the band's name, when I hear a song on the radio. I want a taste of what I'm buying, not a surprise in the post.

We're eager to join the Web gold rush, but not yet willing to offer any more than we already have available in the bricks-and-mortar stores. The Internet isn't just about convenience, it's about information and service. ■

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Humps in the road

HANDS UP THOSE WHO survived Christmas shopping on the Internet. I commend you on your patience, your bravery and your willingness to support Web commerce.

I did a lot of my shopping through the Internet this year. Most presents, it turned out, were for myself, but hey that's what Christmas is all about. I admit to making the effort to use Australian sites first and foremost, but in many cases I did relapse to the old favourites — all offshore.

You see, I thought I wanted the Fastball album. CDStar (www.cdstar.com) couldn't give me a picture of the album cover or a track listing. The price was nice though. I got a bit confused at Chaos Music (www.chaosmusic.com). Loads of options, including US imports and Australian versions of the CD. They did give me a track listing, but no album cover. Sanity (www.sanity.com.au) had some cover images and a long list of CDs and Cassettes for my Fastball search. They had a biography of Fastball and a discography, but no track listings on the first album. The price was a bit steep, with no information on any "extras" I'd be getting. I did find the album cover I wanted — further down the list.

Now, offshore to CDNNow (www.cdnnow.com) and I got album covers, track listings, and real audio and MPEG samples of some of the tracks. This was great — I decided I didn't want Fastball, re-searched an album that I did want and spun back to an Australian site to make the order. Sorry CDStar, but you're delivery speed wasn't fast enough for a last-minute wonder like myself.

I thought the new William Gibson novel, *All Tomorrow's parties* would make good holiday reading, so I dropped by Dymocks (www.dymocks.com.au) to make my purchase. Using the search engine I got a list, which thankfully included my chosen book.



However, from here the only option was to buy — no cover image, no synopsis, just a price and the "buy" button.

So I went to Amazon (www.amazon.com). They keep their search function on the front page so I had my list in one click, rather than two. Top of the list was my book — click two and I had a cover image, price, an average review score from customers, a list of books other people who'd purchased it had bought, a synopsis and a long list of reviews. It was lunchtime, so I strolled to Dymocks around the corner and bought it "in real life".

What's going on?

Don't get me wrong — our Australian e-tailers are not to be sneered at. These guys are providing fantastic delivery services, prices in Australian dollars, secure and dependable systems and, by all accounts, are fairly successful when it comes to revenues. I look forward to seeing how the Australians stack up this time next year. But it only takes a quick trip overseas to see exactly which lessons have been ignored.

The products are available from Australian re-tailers for the most part, but content and detail surrounding those products aren't. We need to catch up quick!

If I'm buying a book I want to read a little bit about it. In the bookstore I can pick it up, flip it

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